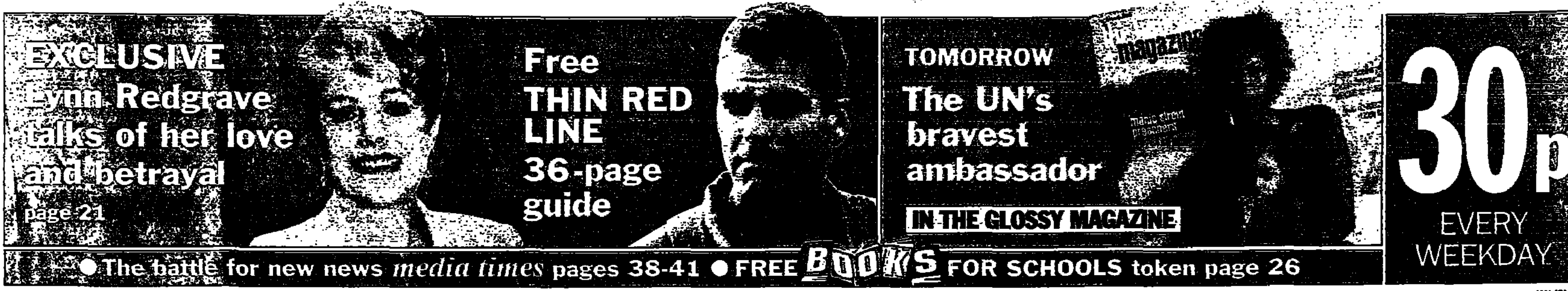
THE TIMES

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Cashmere and biscuit exports hit

Protest to US in banana trade war

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

BRITAIN'S relations with the United States were jolted last night as a dispute over banana imports to Europe flared into a trade war.

The American Ambassador to London was called to the Department of Trade and Industry to face a fierce protest over Washington's action in imposing swingeing duties on £350 million worth of European goods, including the Scottish cashmere industry.

Philip Lader was told by Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, that the American action was irrational and unacceptable and he asked the US Government "in the spirit of friendship" to think again. There was no justification, he said, in inflicting damage on business and communities that were completely unrelated to the banana dispute. The Ambassador will face a similar rebuke at the Foreign Office today.

Mr Lader arrived at the DTI office in Whitehall last night in a Cadillac for the highly unusual "carpeting" of an American ambassador by a trade minister. The Government reacted to the American move by offering cash guarantees to help cashmere exporters to meet the new demands of US Customs.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade Secretary, said that it was a "diplomatic calamity of the highest order" that the Government had got into a trade war with the US and had failed to find a European Union banana regime that abided by international law.

It is the worst rift since the Americans granted Gerry Adams a visa against the Conservative Government's wishes in 1994. In recent history there were rows over the American invasion of Grenada in 1983 and over US sanctions aginst European companies involved in building the Siberian oil pipeline to Europe.

America suddenly imposed the sanctions on Wednesday night over the refusal of Britain and other EU states to stop giving favourable treatment to bananas imported from the Caribbean and Africa.

British goods worth about £60 million, including cashmere and biscuits, and other items from Europe, including cheese, handbags, candles and bubble baths, are affected.

About 2,400 British jobs could be at risk. The long-threatened American action was a response to the EU's reluctance to accept an international ruling and give so-called "dollar" bananas, imported by US firms mainly from Latin America, equal market access with the fruit from former British and French islands.

The European Union argues that some protection is needed to support the livelihood of former colonies that depend on bananas for their economic survival.

Sir Leon Brittan, the Commissioner responsible for the EU's foreign trade, said that the American demand for firms to pay a 100 per cent "bond" on the imports was an irrational breach of international law that "risks a major trade confrontation".

Last November America announced its intenion of retaliating against the EU by imposing 100 per cent duties on selected products. It sought World Trade Organisation (WTO) authority for the move, but when the WTO arbitrator said on Tuesday that he needed more information before making a decision, the American Government decided to go ahead anyway.

Although it argued that it would not apply the duties until after the arbitrator had ruled, the effect was the same because it asked exporters to put up bonds to cover possible duties in future.

Britain has been singled out for the heaviest retaliation apparently because of its backing for privileged banana trade with its former Caribbean territories. Denmark and The Netherlands face no sanctions because they do not back the EU stand.

In another dispute, Congress is moving closer to a ban on flights to the United States by the Anglo-French Concorde in retaliation for new EU noise controls that affect older American aircraft.

Banana republics, page 4
Leading article, Letters, page 23

Euro falls to lowest level

The euro fell to its lowest value against sterling and the dollar yesterday after Wim Duisenberg, President of the the European Central Bank, rejected a German plea to cut interest rates to stop euroland's biggest economy falling into recession.

In two months of trading, the new currency has fallen 8 per cent against the dollar and 5 per cent against the pound.............Page 27



Prince and the showgirls: The Duke of Edinburgh meeting some of the chorus line of the musical *Chicago* at the Adelphi theatre in the West End

Drama fit for a royal performance

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen slumped dead on her throne, poisoned. At the cry of "Treason! Seek it out!" another Queen jumped startled in her seat, as well a monarch might.

More or less everyone dies in the closing moments of *Hamlet*, which yesterday provided the opening scene of a day's tour of London theatreland by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen saw rather a lot of dying, while the Duke had much more fun with a line of chorus girls when he visted rehearsals for the musical *Chicago* at the Adelphi.

Themed days out are an innovation by the Palace, begun last year when the Queen spent a day visiting financial institutions in the City. Yesterday's was a recognition of London theatre's £225 million contribution to the balance of payments, and an opportunity for the thespian world to preen itself with pride.

Scene one occurred at the Young Vic, which runs theatre workshops for local schoolchildren. Hamlet and Laertes rehearsed their final fatal duel for the Queen, who struggled to hear the Prince of Denmark's last words delivered in near-impenetrable Jamaican.

Scene two was infinitely more cheerful, as the Queen moved to the Lyceum to hear the cast of *Oklahoma* rehearsing the thigh-slapping *The Farmer and the Cowman Should be Friends*.

The monarch is not known as a regular theatregoer, but she does like *Oklahoma*, having seen the original London production in 1949. Princess Margaret liked it even more and reportedly went to see it 27 times.

Last night the Royal couple went to see it again. It was the Queen's choice, and she had reportedly wavered between Rogers and Hammerstein and the current production of *Amadeus*.

The musical won, possibly on the strength of family recommendation; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother saw the production at the National Theatre as a birthday treat last year.

Backstage at the Lyceum during her morning visit, the Queen met the cast headed by Maureen Lipman, who plays Aunt Eller, and who confessed that she would relish speaking the line "She'll feel like a queen sittin' up in that carriage", a reference to the surrey with the fringe on top.

Scene three was markedly grimmer. The Queen moved on to the Almeida Theatre in Islington to see Klaus Maria Brandauer, an eminent Austrian actor, in final rehearsal as Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister, set in 1980s East Berlin after Speer's release from prison.

Brandaeur gave the Queen a magnificently Prussian bow and handshake, complete with click of the heels, and showed her the model of Speer's proposed Great Hall, which was to have been the centrepiece of a new Berlin as capital of Hitler's Greater Germany. The Queen peered inside it, fascinated.

In the Almeida's rehearsal rooms the Queen met her ancestor and namesake, in the shape of the Australian actress Cate Blanchett, who has won an Oscar nomination for her film portrayal of Elizabeth I.

But Gloriana preferred to talk of her latest part, as Susan Traherne in David Hare's

Continued on page 2

Abduction charge

Jeffrey and Jenny Bramley, the couple who were at the centre of a nationwide hunt after they disappeared for four months with their two foster daughters, were yesterday charged with abduction in Cambridgeshie............Page 5

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Cook to face censure on leaks

By Roland Watson
Political Correspondent

ROBIN COOK faces a severe censure from Parliament after he admitted yesterday to receiving two further leaks of select committee reports.

Tories accused the Foreign Secretary of complicity and called for his resignation after he had confessed to the embarrassing disclosure. It comes after last week's revelation that he had received two leaks in advance of the critical report on his department's handling of the arms-to-Africa affair.

Mr Cook was facing a drawn out inquiry into those particular episodes. However, last night's further admission threatened to mire the Foreign Secretary in a wider controversy of breaking parliamentary rules.

Shaun Woodward, Tory MP for Witney, accused Mr Cook of "a grave abuse of Parliament" and being party to "institutionalised leaking".

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, has asked the cross-party Committee on Standards and Privileges to rule on whether a minister who receives leaked documents and fails to return them is in breach of parliamentary rules.

Handwritten notes tell tale of Uganda deaths

From Robin Lodge in the Bwindi National Park

HOLDING out death notes that had been placed on the chests of two victims of Monday's slaughter of tourists in southwest Uganda, an army colonel vowed that his men would hunt down and kill the Rwandan rebels responsible.

In the tourist camps, beneath the jungle canopy of the national park, lie fire-gutted vehicles and the roofless, burnt-out huts. Then the remnants of a last meal, eaten before anyone could have been aware of imminent danger. And finally, a trail of scattered papers: a Wolverhampton Wanderers fixture list; two Putney cinema tickets for *Shakespeare In Love*, a shopping list, and a handful of receipts

Lieutenant-Colonel Benon Biraro of the Ugandan Army, said his troops, working in conjunction with the Rwandan Army, were closing in on the insurgents, some 25 miles across the Congolese border.

"I am confident that we will hunt them down," he said. "It will not be a day; it will not be a week, but we will get them," he said. "We are looking for them and we will kill them."

He said that 15 of the rebels had been killed on Wednesday in an ambush by the Rwandan Army on the Goma-Kisora road and that the Rwandans were setting further traps for them. He said he did not regard the rebels, members of the Interahamwe Hutu militia who were held responsible for the 1994 genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, as adversaries but simply as terrorists and criminals who deserved no mercy.

He produced two notes, written in French on the backs of photographs of a gorilla and a kingfisher, which he said had been left on the chests of two men bludgeoned to death after being abducted with 12 other Western tourists and force-marched into Congo. Six other tourists, including four women were also hacked to death. Four of them were Britons.

The notes confirmed earlier reports that English speakers had been singled out for execution. One note read: "This is the fate of the Anglo-Saxons who betrayed us to the Nilotics against the Bantu cultivators."

The terms Nilotics and Bantu cultivators are used in Rwanda to describe Tutsis and Hutus respectively.

The other note said: "This is the punishment for the Anglo-Saxons who sold us out. You are protecting the minority and you are oppressing the majority."

The standard of the handwriting, with only very minor spelling mistakes, shows a level of schooling not at all unusual among the Hutus. The Hutu leadership is extremely well educated.

At Buhoma camp, Gongo Tibesigwa, the manager, described what he had seen of the attack. "It went on for about 20 minutes. I ran to the camp to find out what was happening, but the people had already been taken and the fires were burning."

Voilà Punition des Anglosaxons qui nous ont vendu(s) vous protégez la minorité et vous opprimez la MAJORITE

The killers' message: "This is the punishment for the Anglo-Saxons who sold us out. You are protecting the minority and you are oppressing the majority"

Yard joins FBI, pages 16,17
Simon Jenkins, page 22



Lewinsky's tour of Britain

Monica Lewinsky will travel to 19 bookstores around Britain in 18 days to sign copies of Andrew Morton's book about her. The woman who almost brought down the President flies to London from New York on Sunday. On Monday she will sign at Harrods before heading for venues including the Trafford Centre in Manchester; Meadowhall in Sheffield; Merryhill, Birmingham; the Lakeside centre in Essex and the new Bluewater complex in Kent.........Page 3

Posh Spice awaits baby

Posh Spice, Victoria Adams went into labour yesterday afternoon just 12 days after her fellow Spice Girl, Scary, had her daughter. Ms Adams, 24, was taken to the Portland Hospital in London with David Beckham, her fiancé and the Manchester United footballer. The parents are planning an August wedding.

Yes, we have no mention of the 'b' word by the minister



I have summoned the US Ambassador, Stephen Byers declared. Pooter, thou shouldst be living at this hour. For Mr Byers had come to tell us about bananas.

Banana is not a word that falls easily from the lips of such a dignified man. Carrying with him the air of a well-regarded local government accountant, Mr Byers displays the sort of purse-lipped gravity to which any mention of bananas would be a kind of affront. But Byers is the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; and Britain, with our European partners, is at daggers drawn with the United States, about ... well, you know what.

Yesterday Mr Byers had to make a Commons statement. The Americans are banning our knitware because Europe won't take their ... you know what. Trade war looms. There *was no way round mentioning the cause of it.*

Quite possibly Mr Byers had never said "banana" in his life. Banana splits are not the kind of pudding this quiet, neat, trim-suited man would order. If he had a pudding at all, it would be a small lemon sorbet. Simply to say the "b" word would get his specs steamed up.

But he said it. Once. Opting to get it over with fast, Byers had placed the word in the first sentence of his four-page *statement. To remove any* hint of gaiety that the word might have lent the passage, he coupled the banana with two acronyms and the word "regime": " ... dispute with *the WTO over the EU's banana regime* ..."). And he had chosen a grey tie for the occasion — a different one from *last Thursday. Byers keeps a* whole rack of ties, all grey.

He never said "banana" again in the singular. This was quite a feat of draughtsmanship. We had "an amended *regime*", "*this regime*", "the US action" and "this decision". But on the penultimate page of his statement Byers *locked himself into an argu*ment that could be expressed in no other way. "It is particularly unfortunate," he said, "that American action is directed against industries that have absolutely no connection with ..."

There was no way of getting round the fruit. He bit the bullet. "Bananas," he said. Not since John Selwyn Gummer *had to say "porpoises"* nine times during a single statement has pride been so punctured. Next week Mr Byers's *civil servants plan to make* him say "bottoms". The context is still being contrived.

Words matter. One word yesterday, wrongly reported, *is in danger of entering books* of political quotations in its mistaken form. Mocking what he saw as the anti-European zealotry of the present Official Opposition, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, called the Tories "the rump of a sect of a faction of a once-national party". A good line. I heard it, and have no doubt that those *journalistic colleagues who re*ported "the *runt* of a sect ..." etc, misheard. But that was the version going the rounds as reporters filed their copy. In fact it works *as* well *as the* original.

Even better would be to add the misheard to the heard: "the rump of the runt of a sect of a faction ... " etc. So shall we just settle on that?

☐ *The Times's* "When Did You Stop Beating Your Wife?" parliamentary award: to Tory spokesman Nick Gibb. He asked the Chief Secretary which Labour most regretted: making a false promise; breaking it; or being found out?

Water firms fear pollution by GM crops

Nick Nuttall on concern that narrower range of farm chemicals may breach EU laws

WATER companies are demanding a moratorium on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops amid fears that chemicals used on them may pollute rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

The water industry fears that widespread planting of herbicide-tolerant crops, such as oil seed rape and sugar beet, might lead to problems in meeting the strict legal limits on the levels of individual weed and pest-killing chemicals in drinking water. The companies are concerned that they may face multimillion-pound bills to put in herbicide removal technologies at water treatment works.

A spokesman for Water UK, the industry's body, said: "We have genuine concerns about the widespread use of crops which rely on just two chemicals, so we favour a go-slow, a moratorium. We need time to find the answers. We need several years." An industry team *of environmental and scientif*ic experts is to meet for the first time this month, to investigate the possible effect on drinking water. *English Nature, the* Government's wildlife advisers, has called for a three to five-year moratorium.

At present farmers use a wide range of different herbicides to control weeds. Peter Beaumont, of the Pesticides Trust in London, estimates that between 60 and 70 are used in British agriculture. But genetically engineered crops such as oil seed rape, maize and sugar beet, which are being readied for commercial planting, work in conjunction with just two. These are glyphosate, marketed by Monsanto under the brand name Round Up, and glufosinate, *marketed under the trade* name of Liberty by AgrEvo.

The European Drinking Water Directive sets the limit for *individual pesticides or herbi*cides in drinking water of 0.1 microgrammes per litre, or less than one part per billion. *Total pesticide and herbicide* levels must not be above 0.5 microgrammes per litre.

The latest report by the Government's Drinking Water Inspectorate says that in 1997, three million tests were carried out on tap water and that 99.75 per cent met the standards even in the big agricultural heartlands of East Anglia and Lincolnshire.

Water companies have invested £1 billion in treatment and at least one company, Wessex Water, *paid farmers to* switch to organic agriculture to reduce chemical sprays. The sheer range of herbicides available has also helped to keep individual chemicals within the European limits.

Water companies are worried that widespread planting of gene altered crops and their reliance on two weedkillers could lead to an increase in breaches. Pamela Taylor, chief executive of Water UK, said there were other concerns including the impact of wastes from animals eating the gene-altered crops. The industry is disappointed that it has not *won the right to be told where* such crops are being planted so it can monitor their impact.

John Fowell, chief toxicologist at the Water Research Centre in Henley-on-Thames, believes that gene-altered crops could be a boon to the environ*ment. Seed companies say that* farmers will need to use less sprays. He added: "This needs to be strictly monitored. If there is concern, it centres on breakdown products of these herbicides building up in ground water."

PAUL EDWARDS



Elizabeth too: the Queen at costumiers Angels and Bermans in London yesterday

Royalty in West End

Continued from page 1

Plenty. "It's quite terrifying; it's such an extraordinary play," said the former Elizabeth I.

Elizabeth II ran into her ancestor again at the theatrical costumiers Angels and Bermans, where there was a reminder of her own theatrical past, a 1944 *photograph* of herself and her sister performing in *Old Mother Red Riding Boots*, one of a series of Christmas pantomimes they mounted at Windsor during the war.

It was time for the interval, consisting of lunch at the Ivy. The lucky luvvies who got to sit next to the Queen over a lunch of plum tomato and *basil galette, salmon* fishcakes and Scandinavian iced berries were Dr Jonathan Miller and Michael Codron, producer of Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen.*

The final act of the afternoon starred Lord Attenborough and was played at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, of which Dickie is chairman. He showed the Queen fencing classes, an expression class for visiting Japanese actors, and students rehearsing a death scene from the Jacobean tragedy *The Changeling.*

"I started this morning *with young people at the* Young Vic, and they were dying like flies," the Queen said brightly, telling the drama coach *that it* was cruel *to ask* the dying heroine to breathe more deeply when she was wearing such a tight corset.

No job for 400 doctors trained at £40m

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

HUNDREDS of urgently needed specialist doctors, who cost the National Health Service millions of pounds to train, face dismissal because there is no money to provide them with jobs.

The first notices have been sent out terminating the doctors' contacts: they take effect from the end of this month. By May 2001 about 400 doctors, trained at a cost of £40 million, will have to quit medicine, go abroad or start another five-year course in another specialty with no certainty of a job at the end of it.

The doctors are obstetricians and gynaecologists but the British Medical Association said yesterday that because of "shambolic workforce planning" they would be only the first specialists to be hit in this way. Before long, ear, nose and throat specialists, as well as cardio-thoracic and renal surgeons would face a similar problem. At the same time there would be unfilled vacancies for radiologists and psychiatrists.

"This is a human tragedy for trained, experienced doctors who are being put on the *scrapheap in their thirties*, and for the women and children who are dying because of lack of care," Ian Bogle, chair*man of the BMA, said.* "We have been warning the Government for years that this was going to happen and this is just the first crisis.

"It will happen in other specialisms too. The frightening thing is the Government *thinks it has a good workforce* plan when in fact it is shambolic. These doctors have been betrayed and deceived. They have spent years in medical school, done all the terrible hours of junior doctors, completed more training to become a specialist and are now being told they are redundant."

Nizam Mamode, deputy chairman of the junior doctor's committee, said the Government was wasting a perfect opportunity to improve maternity care. "It is a scandal that these people are being jettisoned while women don't get the care they deserve," he said.

"The scandal does not stop there. There is to be a reduction of 293 being accepted for training but the Health Department have refused to spend the £5.4 million that this will save on hiring the consultants who have already been trained. The whole thing seems crazy."

About 500 doctors were recruited to train as obstetricians and gynaecologists over *the past five years because the* NHS estimated in the early 1990s that there was a need for 7 per cent more consultant *posts in the specialty. Howev*er the ongoing cash squeeze in the NHS means that only 2 per cent more posts have been *created and last year there* were 28 vacancies in the field.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Census to ask if couples are gay

Questions on personal relationships that will determine for the first time how many people are living as homosexual couples are to be included in the 2001 census.

It will also ask people their religion for the first time since 1851 and contain new questions on race, including one asking those who class themselves as white to say whether they are Irish.

Couples will be asked to indicate either if they are married, unrelated or "partners". The data will be analysed to find out how many couples of the same sex describe themselves as partners. The question was welcomed by gay rights campaigners, who argued that it would give the first official recognition to homosexual "marriages".

E. coli outbreak

An 18-month-old girl is one of three children seriously ill with possible kidney failure after an outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning in Cumbria. Twenty-five people have been affected and 11 are still in hospital. Health officials are checking a possible link with milk from a farm at Brigham near Cockermouth.

Smaller classes

Ministers expect to more than halve the number of young children in large classes after allocating another £150 mil*lion to provide new* classrooms and employ more teachers in primary schools. It is forecast that fewer than 200,000 children aged five to seven will be in classes of more than 30 by September.

Porpoise dies

A pregnant porpoise that was rescued by divers from the Thames at Westminster died minutes later. Paul Jepson of London Zoo, who was carrying out a post-mortem examination, said there was no obvious cause of death. He said the 4ft harbour porpoise might have been distressed after being stranded at a low tide.

Vet rents scanner

A hospital in West Sussex is to raise money by renting a scanner used to detect brain and spine tumours to a vet. Officials at Worthing Hospital said that there was no health risk and that patients would retain priority over pets. The vet, Ralph Abercromby, is to use the £600,000 machine two or three evenings a week.

CORRECTION

Our map showing local government elections in May 1999 omitted the 36 Metropolitan Boroughs such as Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and *Birmingham*, where one third of the seats are up for election this year. Also left out were the district councils in *which all the council seats are* being contested in May.

Solicitors hit back after 'seamy' slur

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

SOLICITORS' leaders angrily denounced the Government last night after a minister told them to get their house in order and crack down on the "seamy" side of the profession.

The Law Society told a Home Office minister to "put up or shut up" in a clash over allegedly poor and incompetent advice offered to asylum seekers and immigrants. Michael Mathews, the President of the Law Society, signalled that the profession had finally lost patience with the Government following the latest criticism from the immigration minister.

Mike O'Brien, the minister who is also a solicitor, said there were real concerns about the activities of some solicitors. He said: "There is a clear message to the legal profession. There is a seamy side to my profession and I want that seamy side cleaned up."

He added: "The Law Society have been asked to sort it out and we expect them to do so. *We don't want to have these ad*visers and lawyers providing incompetent and sometimes corrupt advice.

"We expect the Law Society and the Bar, in some respects, to ensure that the law is cleaned up."

Mr O'Brien, who was speaking at a conference in London organised by the Immigration Advisory Service, gave warning that if the Law Society did not rid the profession of poor immigration lawyers the Government would require solicitors to register under a new system of regulation.

The Government is to set up statutory regulation of non-legally qualified immigration advisers but has exempted solicitors because the Law Society has agreed to introduce improved training for firms offering legal advice on immigration and asylum issues.

The Law Society said it had repeatedly requested informa*tion from the Home Office* about firms involved in providing incompetence advice. It said without detailed allega*tions it was powerless to act* against firms.

Aitken 'recovering from stroke'

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister who is awaiting sentence for perjury and perverting the course of justice, was said yesterday to be recovering from a minor stroke.

The stroke apparently happened last week and involved burst blood vessels that affected his sight. His lawyers said he was expected to make a full recovery, but his mother at first said she knew nothing about it. However, Lady Aitken said later: "*I gather he has had what they call a* mini-stroke ... not an incapacitating sort. He is perfectly all right."

Case is dropped against ex-business partner, writes Michael Horsnell

Said Ayas, Aitken's friend and former *business partner, yesterday walked free* from the Old Bailey after charges against him of attempting to pervert the course of justice and of conspiring to pervert the course of justice were dropped. The former MP had pleaded not guilty to the latter charge, which had been jointly laid against the two men.

After the hearing, Mr Ayas said: "I am very relieved. It is has been a very stressful time when you are in a case like this."

The withdrawal of the two charges against Mr Ayas — together with the fact that Aitken, 56, has already admitted other charges — mean that details of their relationship, which might have embarrassed the Saudi Arabian royal family *and the British Government, will never be* heard in open court.

Aitken, who was Defence Procurement Minister and then Chief Secretary to the Treasury under John Major, made a 120-paragraph confession to police admitting he had woven a web of deceit during his unsuccessful libel action in 1997 against *The Guardian* and Granada Television for which he still has to pay £2 million in costs. His civil action centred on the allegation that he had stayed at the Ritz in Paris in 1993 at the expense of prominent Saudi friends — in breach of rules covering government ministers. It was his lying at the High Court about the trip that led to criminal charges.

Aitken subsequently confessed that he alone was responsible for forcing his wife Lolicia, his teenage daughter Victoria and *Mr Ayas to tell lies in witness statements.*

In his confession, Aitken detailed how the Saudis paid a second hotel bill for him as a minister the day after the infamous jaunt in *Paris. The Times* understands.

The Lebanese-born Mr Ayas, 56, formally pleaded not guilty yesterday to the two charges against him, and Mr Justice Potts directed that not-guilty verdicts be recorded.

Details of Aitken's confession were disclosed at a committal hearing in December which could not then be reported.

Lakeside: the business end of the affair

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

THE TOUR

WHEN Monica Lewinsky began her affair with the US President it is unlikely that she saw it ending with a trip to the Lakeside shopping centre in Essex.

The shopping and fast-food emporium, which starred in a recent BBC docu-soap is, however, where she can be seen at 11.30am on Saturday week, signing copies of Andrew Morton's book and fulfilling that obligatory requirement of the modern book deal — the publicity blitz.

Miss Lewinsky will travel to 19 bookstores around the country in 18 days. The woman who almost brought down the President flies to London from New York on Sunday. On Monday she will sign at Harrods before heading for venues including the Trafford Centre in Manchester; Meadowhall in Sheffield; Merryhill, Birmingham; and the new Bluewater complex in Kent.

Security will be almost as tight as for a president. A firm of private security guards has spent weeks studying the layout of book shops as far afield as Glasgow and Bath and advising managers on where she should sit and where the public, clamouring for a glimpse of the world's most famous lover, should queue up.

Miss Lewinsky will have 24-hour use of a chauffeur-driven Mercedes courtesy of her publishers, Michael O'Mara Books, and will be accompanied at all times by a bodyguard, a publicist and two sales managers.

Many celebrities refuse to tour book shops outside London, but Miss Lewinsky, 25, has gamely agreed to a sometimes gruelling schedule.

By tradition she will make her debut at Harrods, where she will sit at the desk where such historic figures as Mikhail Gorbachev, Norman Schwarzkopf and Baroness Thatcher have autographed copies of their weighty tomes.

A spokesman for Harrods said: "She will not be coming in through one of the main public entrances, she will be coming in the back way and up to the Art Room where many, many famous people have signed their books."

He added that Harrods was expecting big crowds and security would be at a maximum. Within three hours of an advertisement being placed in London's *Evening Standard*, 150 orders had been placed for reserved signed copies of *Monica's Story*.

Press photographers and cameramen will be allowed to take pictures of the former Whitehouse intern for 15 minutes before signings. However, journalists are not allowed to ask her questions.

A spokeswoman for Dillons in Newcastle, which Miss Lewinsky will visit on March 16, said: "She is bringing her own security people who we understand have been supplied by the publishers. We had a visit from them last week to look over the store. She will not be sitting at street level.

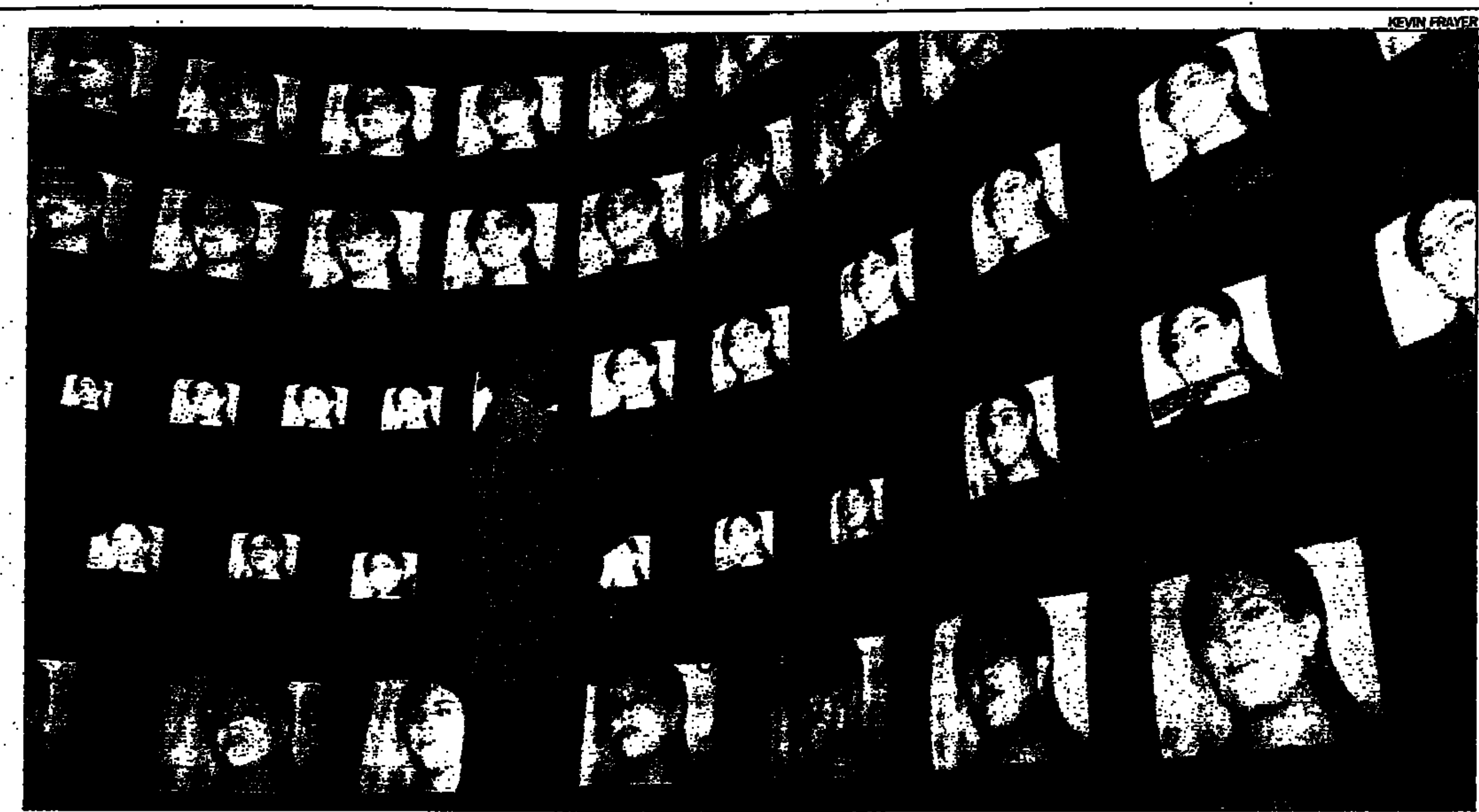
"We are really looking forward to it. Not all famous people are prepared to go outside of London to promote their books so we think there will be a real buzz to the day."

The author Andrew Morton, who is in the US promoting the book until March 13, will join her at Waterstones in Leeds on March 16. Miss Lewinsky has visited Britain once before during her work with the Pentagon. Later, in December 1997, she wrote a letter to Bill Clinton in which she said: "I loved you with all of my heart, Bill, and wanted to be with you all of the time, most recently in London. I walked the streets thinking how content I would be to walk the streets with you at my side."

Miss Lewinsky will visit the Lakeside shopping centre at Thurrock on March 13, a location that is used to the television cameras after being the subject of a 12-part series, *Lakesiders*, for BBC1 last year.

Yesterday a spokeswoman for Michael O'Mara Books was unwilling to disclose details of where Miss Lewinsky would stay or whether she was travelling with her mother. "We will take very good care of her," the spokeswoman said.

KEVIN FRAYER



A shop assistant watches Ms Lewinsky's ABC interview at a store in Toronto. A record 70 million Americans are believed to have tuned in

The show that stopped a nation

From Damian Whitworth
in Washington

THE TELEVISION DEBUT

AMERICANS, many of whom have been insisting for months that they just wanted Monica Lewinsky to go away, made her first television interview the most watched news programme in the nation's history.

The ABC said that provisional ratings figures indicated that 70 million people had watched some or all of the interview with Barbara Walters on Wednesday night. That unexpectedly eclipsed the 62 million who saw Oprah Winfrey's interview with Michael Jackson in 1993 and the 34 million who saw the interview with the Clintons in the wake of allegations during the 1992 campaign that Mr Clinton had an affair with Gennifer Flowers.

Opinion polls have consistently shown that Americans claim they are fed up with the Lewinksy saga but the ratings demonstrated that a quarter of the population could not resist hearing what she had to say, and that more than half the nation's television sets were tuned in.

In bars, gyms and airport lounges across the country, all eyes were on Ms Lewinsky, weeping and joking by turn. At Washington's Dulles Airport, passengers stepping off planes delayed by bad weather crowded around television sets to watch Ms Lewinsky tell her tale.

"We are thrilled," an ABC spokeswoman said yesterday. The network charged about £400,000 for each 30 second advertising spot during the interview.

Ms Lewinsky, who was not paid, had said that she wanted to tell people she was not a strumpet. She appeared to have had some success, with 44 percent of viewers saying that they thought more favourably of her after the broadcast, according to an ABC poll.

Pentagon protects identity of President's love rival

From Ian Brodie in Washington

THE OTHER MAN

THE Pentagon yesterday shielded the identity of the defence official whose child Monica Lewinsky said she aborted during her relationship with President Clinton.

Ms Lewinsky refers to him with only a first name, Thomas, in Andrew Morton's book *Monica's Story*. She described him as "brilliant and exciting" in her interview on American television but was reluctant to say much more about him.

She did tease Mr Clinton about there being another man, telling him that he had competition. She did not tell him about the abortion, which she had found to be "just horrible and very depressing".

Thomas, 42, a civilian policy strategist, was single at the time of his three-month affair with Ms Lewinsky but has since married. He was said to have recoiled in horror when her relationship with Mr Clinton became public knowledge in January last year.

Thomas and Ms Lewinsky first met as members of a US delegation visiting Bosnia while she worked as an administrative assistant to Ken Bacon, the chief Pentagon spokesman. She was moved to the Pentagon by White House staff who thought she was seeing too much of the President. Soon after Bosnia she saw Thomas for a date and he invited her to stay the night at her house, according to the book. She declined because the President might call her at home, as indeed he did, and they chatted far into the night.

She ended the affair with Thomas because, ironically, he was seeing other women and by then it was clear he was never going to be the new love of her life. "I enjoyed his company and I had feelings for him but not very strong feelings," Ms Lewinsky said. She discovered that she was pregnant just as the affair was ending in October 1996.

At the Pentagon, senior officials turned aside questions about the identify of Thomas, saying the affair was consensual and was not connected with defence policy. Colleagues have described him as an innocent bystander who did nothing improper. A Clinton aide said: "This may be the only example of someone whose life hasn't been ruined by an association with the scandal."

The Morton book, which went on sale in America yesterday, sheds new light on potential problems facing Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, over alleged strong-arm tactics used by his staff. Under the immunity agreement in exchange for her grand jury testimony, Ms Lewinsky was barred from discussing the conduct of Mr Starr's staff on television but the deal did not apply to the book.



The Morton book: not covered by Starr ban

One chapter recounts how Michael Emmick, a Starr prosecutor, called her lawyer, William Ginsburg, and offered to fax a copy of the affidavit in which she denied having an affair with Mr Clinton. She had signed the false statement in connection with the Paula Jones case. Two FBI agents who were in the room at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel near the Pentagon pulled Mr Emmick roughly away from the telephone. They realised that Mr Ginsburg would instantly realise that Starr's office had seen the affidavit before it was filed with the court and it must have come from Ms Jones's lawyers, the book says.

The US Justice Department is investigating whether Mr Starr's staff had improper contacts with Ms Jones's lawyers and attempted to make Ms Lewinsky co-operate with them without letting her have a lawyer present. Ms Lewinsky has said she was petrified by threats that she could be imprisoned for 27 years for obstruction of justice.

It was to be many months, however, before she signed the immunity deal that enabled Mr Starr to proceed. Without her help and without the infamously stained dress, he would have been unable to make the case for impeachment against the President.

Asked on television about the dress, Ms Lewinsky said: "It's fun to think it was a souvenir but that's not what it was." She explained that she did not know what the stains were at first and the reason why she never had the garment dry-cleaned was because she had grown too fat for it.

Ms Lewinsky said there was no new Prince Charming in her life but she would still like to marry and have children. She was asked how she would describe her presidential affair to them.

"Mommy made a big mistake," she replied, grinning.

'He didn't have to deny the relationship with such anger'

THE INTERVIEW

By Our Media
Correspondent

MONICA LEWINSKY last night answered any lingering doubts as to whether she might still be in love with President Clinton.

In an interview with Jon Snow on Channel 4, she recalled the precise moment her feelings towards him turned sour. She said that she now switched channels if he appeared on television.

Miss Lewinsky, 25, could not hide the bitterness as she told Snow that she had come to realise that "rather than there being a man, Bill Clinton, he's 100 per cent politician". She added: "He's a good politician, but 100 per cent politician." Asked whether she hated or loved him when she saw him on television, she said: "Not love him, but sometimes I hate him."

Most of her hatred was clearly reserved for Linda Tripp, the woman who taped the conversations in which Ms Lewinsky detailed her affair. "She gutted me. She violated me. She knifed me." The former White House intern also disclosed that she would like the famous semen-stained Gap dress returned to her so that she could burn it.



Monica Lewinsky with her interviewer, Jon Snow

Her illusions about the President were shattered, she said, when she saw him on national television denying that he had ever had a sexual relationship with "that woman Monica Lewinsky".

"I remember exactly where I was, sitting on the bed in the apartment, watching TV, legs crossed ... I felt I could see and hear in his voice and his actions how very angry he was with me. And that hurt. He could have denied this relationship in a different way. He didn't have to do it with such — such anger."

She said she knew she no longer loved him when she heard that he he had told White House staff that she was a "stalker" who had entrapped him. "That was the moment and the realisation that I fell completely out of love with him.

"I had hoped that he had sort of, y'know, turned a blind eye and said, 'Do what you need to protect me but I don't want to to be a part of it', and instead he was in there, writing all the plays."

During the interview, which has been sold by Channel 4 to more than 30 countries, she admitted that she had been devoted to President Clinton and had hoped for a future with him after he left office.

The first time she had seen him it had "taken her breath away". "He has a very magnetic sense about him and he's very sensual and attractive and draws you into his energy," she said.

"He just sort of looks at you, he locks eyes with you and he sort of peels away the layers of your being with his eyes and with his energy and his spirit and it's very intense."

One of the things she had found most humiliating was the idea that their sex had been "one-sided". "This notion that ... I received nothing is false ... [during] the first encounter he concentrated on me and focused on me more before I focused on him."

However, she admitted: "He didn't say he was in love with me, no."

Asked what she would say if she saw him again, Miss Lewinsky said she would apologise for being "indiscreet about the relationship". But she added: "Right now I could think of a few other people that I'd rather spend an evening with than him."



Stay of execution for knitwear industry

Government pledge gives glimmer of hope to a mainstay of Borders economy, reports Shirley English

MILL towns in the Scottish Borders fear ruin because of the trade war over bananas. Twenty-two small companies that produce cashmere knitwear said that up to 1,000 jobs were at risk because of the threatened loss of business worth £20 million.

MPs and the industry began intensive campaigning to protect the mills' 2,300 staff when the 100 per cent tariff on 14 randomly chosen items was mooted by the US in December. Their efforts appeared to have failed, with the mills becoming the main victim of a dispute that has nothing to do with them.

Yesterday afternoon, however, there was a glimmer of hope when the Government protested to the US Ambassador and pledged to underwrite the cost of the tariffs for cashmere, the worst-affected British industry.

Half of all European cashmere and 90 per cent of British cashmere comes from the Borders. In towns such as Hawick nine in ten jobs are dependent on the industry. Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, accused the US of declaring "economic warfare" on the region by targeting its main employer.

David Douglas, chief executive of Scottish Borders Enterprise, welcomed the Government's intervention yesterday. But he said: "Morale is still very low. We are all going to be on tenterhooks for the next six weeks until the World Trade Organisation makes its ruling. There is a fear that this could get worse and we have no control over it."

The government pledge provided a lifeline for Clan Douglas, a Hawick company that exports 90 per cent of its luxury knitwear to the US. Without it the firm would have closed by August, Arthur Rennie, the factory manager, said.

"The situation is desperate. Having to pay these bonds would have meant we quite literally would have run out of cash. The government pledge will have to last for the duration of the threat. It needs to call America's bluff, otherwise it will be disastrous," he said.

"The US has known from the start what these trade sanctions would mean for the Scottish Borders but has continued to pursue them relentlessly. There is supposed to be a Tartan Day in the States on April 6; black armbands would be more appropriate."

Concern had been growing that nervous US customers were looking elsewhere for suppliers because of the uncertainty caused by the banana war. George Peden, chief executive of the Scottish Cashmere Association, said: "Our biggest concern was that we needed to give our customers confidence that they could place the orders with Scotland and we would deliver the goods without the 100 per cent duty. That is the lifeline the Government has given us."

The Borders economy has already been hit hard by the strong pound and the economic crisis in the Far East, which resulted in thousands of job losses in textiles and the electronics industry, the area's other main employer.

"If the mills close, there will be nothing left for Hawick," said Betty Turnbull, 55, who works for Clan Douglas and has been in the industry all her life, like her parents.

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Sir Leon Brittan denouncing the sanctions yesterday. He said that the US risked a "major trade confrontation"

America's complex links with banana republics

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

OFFICIALS for the Clinton Administration say the decision to take the banana issue to the World Trade Organisation was based on a mix of US corporate interest and the principle of free trade. But others detect a more sinister explanation.

The three biggest US fruit companies — Dole, Chiquita Brands and Del Monte — control about 66 per cent of the world market compared with the Caribbean growers' 3 per cent. Chiquita complains that Europe's tariffs cost it more than £60 million a year in revenues.

Expecting to expand their markets in Eastern Europe dramatically after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, American companies invested heavily in their Latin American plantations but have seen little return.

As for political influence, during the mid-90s, when Chiquita was pressing the Clinton Administration to take its case before the WTO, Carl Lindner, Chiquita's chairman, reportedly donated more than $1 million to the Democrat Party. In fact the Cincinnati-based tycoon has been pumping money into US campaign coffers — Democrat and Republican — for decades. Critics say the donations are what enabled Mr Lindner to win sudden access to the Clinton Administration — including key meetings with Mikey Kantor when US Trade Representative.

America has a long history of defending the banana companies' interests in Latin America. In 1954 the CIA helped to overthrow Jacobo Arbenz, Guatemala's socialist president, in part to protect the plantations of the United Fruit Company, as Chiquita was then known. The companies' influence in Central America earned Honduras its "banana republic" reputation. The companies notoriously vied for government favours, paying huge bribes.

In 1975 Eli Black, the chairman of United Brand, committed suicide after it was disclosed that he paid a $1.25 million bribe to the Honduran Government. The Honduran President was subsequently toppled by a military coup. Although more democratic governments have emerged in Central America, the US companies remain highly protective of their domain. In the early 1990s their influence was demonstrated when they tried to elbow out the British company Fyffes, which was trying to get into the Central American market.

Fyffes executives in northern Honduras had to arm themselves with stun guns against attacks and kidnapping attempts by police allegedly in the pay of Americans.

Two countries divided by a common fruit

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

BRITISH-AMERICAN relations have always been more about national interest than sentiment. Usually there has been close co-operation on defence and intelligence, yet both countries have from time to time disagreed on economic and trade matters. That was vividly illustrated yesterday in the Commons when George Robertson's assertion of Anglo-US solidarity on the Iraq no-fly zone was followed by Stephen Byers's theatrical announcement that he had "summoned" the American Ambassador over the banana dispute. Talk of "carpeting" and the like is gesture politics that exaggerates the current strains on Washington/London relations and gives a misleading impression of what the dispute involves.

The British and American Governments have almost always been able to balance differences over trade issueswith close agreement in other areas. The Blair and Clinton Administrations now see eye to eye on Bosnia, Iraq, Northern Ireland and Kosovo.

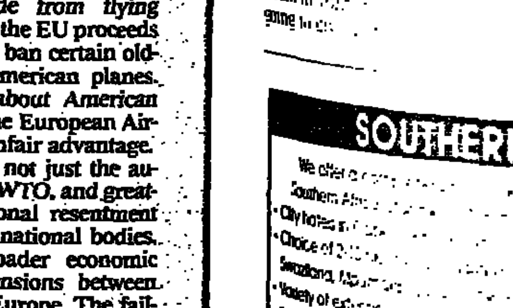
Nonetheless, the banana dispute matters, not least because it has developed into such a public spat. Washington and Brussels have argued for several years over American claims that Europe gives unfair access to bananas imported from former colonies in the Caribbean and Africa. No jobs in Europe or America are directly affected by the banana trade, as opposed to the threatened retaliation.

The Clinton Administration and British scepticsaccuse Brussels of being intransigent and flouting the spirit of the rules of the World Trade Organisation. In Washington's view, European concessions after past WTO rulings still allow a regime that discriminates against US distributors of Latin American fruit. The EU, and Mr Byers, argue that the American retaliatory tariffs are unlawful under WTO rules, as well as inflammatory. A WTO arbitrators' panel is considering whether the EU has complied with its previous ruling.

There have been rumblings from the European side that the White House may have been too influenced by Carl Lindner, the chairman of the banana group Chiquita Brands International, who has been a sizeable political donor. At the same time, the Clinton Administration has been under pressure from Congress, which might have wanted mandatory sanctions if action had not been taken on Wednesday. These measures are partly symbolic and intended to buy time until the arbitrators' report is ready.

Underlying this argument is the threat of more general protectionism across the Atlantic. Congress and American policymakers are worried about the rapidly rising US trade deficit and have been pressing for cuts in European interest rates to boost growth. This has led to increasing tensions: for instance, on Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed a Bill that would ban Concorde from flying into the US if the EU proceeds with plans to ban certain older, noisier American planes. This is all about American claims that the European Airbus has an unfair advantage.

At stake is not just the authority of the WTO, and greater Congressional resentment at such multinational bodies, but also broader economic and trade tensions between the US and Europe. The failure of normal diplomacy to resolve such a minor dispute as that on bananas shows how tricky relations have become.



Couple charged with abducting foster children

Case will be heard before civil proceedings, report Frances Gibb and Claudia Joseph

A COUPLE who were at the centre of a nationwide hunt after they disappeared for four months with their foster daughters were last night charged with abduction, police said yesterday.

Jeffrey and Jenny Bramley, both 35, who live near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, have been charged with offences contrary to the Child Abduction Act 1984. They will appear before magistrates in Peterborough, on April 8.

They were interviewed by police in January on their return to Britain after spending 18 weeks in Ireland.

The couple have been granted temporary custody of Jade, 5, and Hannah, 3, pending a High Court hearing about their future. Now it is likely that criminal proceedings will be heard before that hearing.

The maximum penalties under the Act are seven years' imprisonment for each offence if it is heard in the Crown Court; although if the couple pleaded guilty and were tried by magistrates the maximum penalty is six months per offence.

The prosecution is being brought on the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service. It was not clear yesterday whether it would have taken any account of the civil proceedings pending over the girls' future. The Official Solicitors' Department, which is representing the girls because they have now been made wards of court, said that it was not unusual for criminal and civil proceedings to be running in tandem. An official said: "Where, for instance, you have a child-abuse allegation, you can often have a judge at the same time trying to grapple with whether a child should be placed in care."

Mr and Mrs Bramley disappeared from their home last September just before they were due to hand back the girls, who are half-sisters, to social workers. They had been told that they would not be able to adopt them.

The couple reappeared in January when it emerged that they and the girls had been living in "good-quality accommodation" in a caravan on the west coast of Ireland. The couple were told that they could keep the girls temporarily pending a decision by the High Court on their future.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, expressed concern last night that the bringing of criminal charges could prejudice the outcome of the adoption inquiry. "This is highly unusual and does not appear to fit into any of the usual categories for abduction," he said. These are: child sex offenders who are jailed; disturbed women who seized babies and would receive psychiatric help; and parents in "tug of love" cases where the abduction was normally dealt with by injunctions in the civil courts. "None of these would seem to be appropriate here," he said.



Jeffrey and Jenny Bramley, who now face two court hearings over the fate of the two girls they have fostered

Teacher suspends son for drinking

By Simon de Bruxelles

A HEADMASTER has suspended his own teenage son for drinking during a school trip. Emyr George, 15, was one of the three pupils on a residential music course caught drinking lager smuggled in from an off-licence.

The two boys and a girl, the daughter of a senior education authority official, were described as being "in high spirits" when they were caught. They were among a group of 80 young musicians attending a weekend course at the Ogmore Centre Trust near Bridgend in South Wales.

Arwel George, their headmaster, suspended the trio for three days. The suspension was backed by governors at the Penweddig Comprehensive School at Aberystwyth in west Wales.

Mr George said yesterday: "I have dealt with my son in the same way I would with any other pupil. He was suspended for three days but is now back in classes and the matter is over. Justice has been seen to have been done."

Examiner punched by driver taking test

By Helen Johnstone

A LEARNER driver who believed that he had failed his driving test punched and kicked his examiner in a fit of rage, a court was told yesterday.

Outraged at his failure after 12 months of lessons and an earlier test, Gareth Wandless cut short the test and drove towards the test centre in Newbury, Berkshire, at up to twice the legal limit.

Magistrates in the town were told that Frank Johnston, the examiner, slammed on his dual control brakes yards from the test centre, whereupon Wandless, 18, punched him in the face, got out of the car, opened the passenger door and repeatedly kicked him.

Barry Kochanek, for the prosecution, said that Wandless, who admitted the assault on February 26, then fled as a test centre assistant came to the examiner's aid.

Michael Davis, for Wandless, told the court: "Taking a driving test is always a difficult time. There is bound to be tension. Gareth knew things had not gone well and he had an inkling that he had not passed his test. It would appear that he and the driving examiner did not get on."

Sentence on Wandless, the eldest of four children living with his mother in Newbury, was adjourned for reports. He said after the hearing: "I should have just walked away. I looked down and saw three big crosses. I have spent hundreds of pounds on lessons and have had at least three different instructors. I think I am going to give up now."

Life for bungled second offence

By Paul Wilkinson

A BANK robber who was caught after obeying a clerk's instructions to sit and wait was jailed yesterday. Andrew Buckland was given a mandatory life sentence for a second violent crime.

Judge David Swift said that his "incompetence and inefficiency" did not exempt him from the Crime and Sentencing Act 1997. Buckland, 30, has a previous conviction for possessing a firearm with intent. The judge imposed a *minimum* sentence of seven years and Buckland will remain on licence for life.

Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, was told that Buckland, carrying a hidden toy gun, went into the Barclays branch in Stockport last June, intending to grab as much cash as he could. He queued for the counter and produced a note that read: "This is a robbery, give us your money. I've got a gun." He had signed it with his own name. It was written on the back of a letter from his local authority, bearing his name and address. The clerk said: "Will you take a seat sir, we will deal with you in a moment," and summoned police.

Buckland denied attempted robbery and having an imitation firearm but was convicted after a trial last month.

Bunty Batra, his counsel, saidthat Buckland had had domestic problems. "Parliament did not intend that defendants who go into a bank with a toy gun and a note with their *name* and address on should get a sentence of life imprisonment."

Crash victim thinks wife is an impostor

Husband wins £130,000 after courts hears of rare syndrome, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A LOVING husband turned cold against his wife because he believes she has been replaced by an impostor, a court was told yesterday. Alan Davies is convinced that his real wife of 31 years died in a car crash and he now refuses even to hug the woman who still shares his life.

Mr Davies, 52, was awarded £130,000 damages yesterday after it was claimed that his rare medical syndrome was caused by the crash that he and his wife, Christine, 50, both survived.

The husband suffered minor injuries and shock and his wife had whiplash. But he has flashbacks of his wife screaming and lying dead. In his psychological condition, known as Capgras Syndrome, patients suffer a break in the link between areas of the brain responsible for visual recognition and emotional response, and the mind tries to rationalise it by concluding that a familiar face has been replaced by an impostor.

After the crash in September 1995, in which another driver cut across the couple's car, Mr Davies, from Rhondda, South Wales, has been forced to give up his job as a craft teacher at the Tonypandy Comprehensive School.

His wife, whom he now calls Christine II, told the High Court in Cardiff: "Before the accident he was an extrovert, very spontaneous and emotional. He was sociable and animated. Every day when we got up for breakfast he would say 'Good morning. I love you' and would give me a kiss. We would go out a lot and had a very happy sex life.

"Our only contact now is when I give him a hug, but he doesn't respond. He doesn't want to talk about anything. Only our old friends come round because only they know not to get upset when Alan gets up and leaves the room without saying a word." The couple's eldest daughter, Caroline Davies, 29, said: "Before the accident my dad was the life and soul of the party. Now they don't interact any more. Dad is constantly stressed by any show of affection."

Mr Davies said that he had been prescribed medication but did not always take it: "I have good days and bad days but I still believe my wife has died. We have discussed divorce but she doesn't want to."

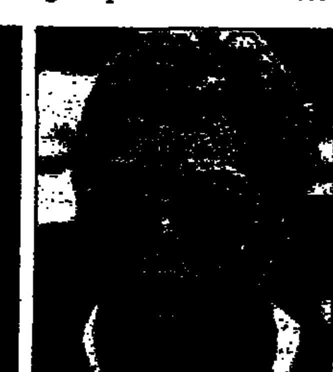
Dr Sudad Jawad, a consultant psychiatrist, told the court: "When they came to see me he never acted as though he was sitting next to a real person. After two years of treating Alan I came to the conclusion that his delusion is fixed and will sadly never go away."

Mr Davies sued the other driver, Thomas Williams, 55, for loss of earnings and damages. Mr Williams, from Abertillery, near Newport, admitted liability for the crash but denied causing the psychiatric problems. After Mr Davies's case was put in court, Mr Williams's insurance company offered £130,000 plus costs.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay said: "This is a sensible conclusion. It has been a tragic case but the right outcome has been reached."

The couple declined to comment as they left court, walking several feet apart.

Capgras Syndrome is named after one of two French doctors who identified it in the 1920s. It can be brought on by severe depressive illness or a head injury. A leading authority, the psychiatrist Dr David Enoch, said: "It is one of the rarest psychiatric illnesses in the world. The victim is usually a man who is under the delusion that his wife is a double."



Alan Davies and his wife, whom he calls Christine II

£135,000 for mechanic frightened by police

By Helen Johnstone

A CAR mechanic has been unable to face work since the day he emerged from beneath the vehicle he was working on to be confronted by eight policemen pointing guns at him.

Graham Parker was awarded £135,000 compensation against Hampshire police yesterday. He was not in court to hear the award because he had suffered a panic attack and gone home.

Salisbury Crown Court was told that Mr Parker, 35, from Portsmouth, had suffered post-traumatic stress since the incident in 1993 when police, mistakenly believing him to be an armed criminal, surrounded him outside his house as he repaired a car that had been linked to two firearms incidents in Liverpool.

At an earlier hearing Mr Parker said: "I saw eight guns pointing at me. I heard a double click. I thought: I'm dead."

Hampshire police, who are to appeal, claimed Mr Parker had exaggerated his problems. A spokeswoman said: "There is no evidence that he cannot tolerate being in other working environments."

Health officers found meal hard to swallow

By Simon de Bruxelles, West of England Correspondent

THE banquet laid on by a hotel for environmental health officers left them distinctly unimpressed. The next day the Webbington Hotel, near Weston-super-Mare, was raided by council inspectors who reported it for breaching hygiene regulations.

The 260 officials from around Britain had expected a feast that would be the highlight of a conference on air quality held by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection. First they were told the chef had forgotten to take the salmon mousse out of the freezer and there would be no starter. When the main course arrived they refused to eat it. They complained about the wine and that the service was poor. When the time came to pay the bill they refused.

The embarrassed host, Piers Furlong, chief environmental health officer with the local Sedgemoor District Council, in Somerset, said: "The meal was a disaster. The salmon mousse never arrived because it was still frozen. The main course was appalling — I couldn't eat it, and the wine was not very nice. It was extremely disappointing for premises of that standard. It's a shame because I have had some very good meals there."

Mr Furlong says the next day's inspection was coincidental, a claim the hotel's manager, Sanjay Kantaria, finds as hard to swallow as frozen salmon mousse. Mr Kantaria said: "It was surprising they sent two inspectors instead of the normal one and the inspection took four hours instead of the normal 20 minutes."

The hotel has agreed to waive the bill and Mr Kantaria said: "We admit that a junior chef made a mistake which meant we could not serve a starter but we acted responsibly in not serving something which could have been a health risk. There was no problem with the wine or service."

Sedgemoor's environment committee has recommended that the hotel be cautioned for the faults. The hotel's solicitor said that these were minor and had soon been corrected.



Fake fur and hipsters: Dolce e Gabbana are tired of creating everyday wear

Kitsch and colour collide on the Milanese catwalk



Lisa Armstrong sees Dolce e Gabanna present a tongue-in-cheek show, complete with Day-Glo coats and lime python boots, designed to surprise rather than sell

THE chilly Milanese rain beat down on a tungsten-lit marquee that had been erected a couple of days earlier in the courtyard of the Via San Damiano headquarters of the fashion designers Dolce e Gabanna. Scores of crimson and pale coral roses bloomed round ponds filled with goldfish and lit with flickering church candles. A rustic scene of artfully chipped chairs and tables set with Parmesan and loaves rested mid-catwalk, bunches of grapes drooped atmospherically about the place.

The scene was Sicily, Domenico Dolce's birthplace and the source of much of the duo's creative impetus. The time was the feast day of Madonna — Madonna, Mother of Christ that is, though it could have just as easily have been the diva.

Dolce e Gabanna's Sicily is part Fellini, part Roberto Rossellini and part *Carry On*, hence the sheer mantilla cloaks worn over semi-transparent leggings (something of a trend, worryingly) in the show's finale. Hence too, the hipster "peasant" skirts, fashioned from nylon shaggy fur, and the roughly finished cropped sheepskin jackets worn with very low-cut, beaded hipster capris.

It is all deliciously tongue in cheek and some of it is no doubt destined to end up in a fashion museum as a monument to late 20th century kitsch. How much of it will sell is another, probably irrelevant, question since so much of the designers' turnover is fuelled by accessories, scent and pictures of Madonna the diva in their frocks.

The heavily beaded fluorescent yellow plastic mini raincoat, a beaded orange plastic belt doubling as a skirt, and the lime python boots with mirrored heels ("so you can sit down and put your make-up on while staring at your heels") were particularly fine examples of fashion as a photo-op — and to hell with the dreary business of making clothes women can wear every day.

Beyond the neon colours, the chunky multicoloured coats and jackets that were made from goat that had been made to look like monkey hair, were some dazzling pieces. Beaded capris and belts will tempt the rock star brigade while the long, Day-Glo coats with bracelet sleeves that were worn over those leggings will look rather elegant when they are made up in the inevitable black.

Before they unveiled their catwalk collection yesterday, Stefano Gabanna, 39, and Domenico Dolce, 41, announced that they were becoming tired of the fashion system, which they declared onerous and oppressive. Those addicted to the pair's inimitable brand of corsetry-dressing will be relieved to know, however, that the length of their show (which comprised 150 outfits) suggested they were not thinking of shaking off their shackles any time too soon.

Universities offered cash bait for poorer students

Budget increase will provide thousands more places in higher education, reports **John O'Leary**

UNIVERSITIES are to receive a 5 per cent "premium" for every student they recruit from poor areas to try to ensure that an extra 45,000 higher-education places go to groups under-represented on campuses.

A £75 million budget increase has enabled the Higher Education Funding Council for England to exceed the Government's plans to increase the number of students. Most of the new places will be on sub-degree courses, largely in further education colleges.

A £20 million fund has been set aside to broaden the range of people going into higher education. Students from under-privileged homes are the priority but the aim is also to increase the number of part-time and mature students.

The council has surveyed the postcode of every full-time student and given some universities more than £400,000 as an incentive to attract students from poor areas. Of the 76 universities, Derby, Huddersfield, Luton, Sunderland and Staffordshire will benefit most from the "premium". Even Oxford and Cambridge, which attract a high proportion of students from affluent homes, will receive about £150,000 each.

As a result of changes to the Oxbridge funding system, the funding council's budget of £4,216 million for 1999–2000 includes £36 million previously paid direct to the Oxford and Cambridge colleges. Extra funds to reward high-quality work and to maintain historic buildings have helped to ensure that both of the ancient universities receive a funding increase this year close to the rate of inflation.

University College London and Luton University will receive the biggest year-on-year rise under the settlements announced yesterday. Exeter University and Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, which had poor research assessments, and Middlesex and Thames Valley universities, which failed to meet last year's recruitment targets, receive the lowest settlement.

The settlement for Thames Valley, whose vice-chancellor resigned after a critical inspection report, is conditional on the submission later this month of a plan to tackle academic and financial problems.

Brian Fender, the funding council's chief executive, said that extra money would be available to tackle previous underinvestment in university buildings and equipment.

THE WINNERS AND LOSERS

BIGGEST GAINS	%
University College London	6.1
Luton	5.8
King's College London	5.1
Brunel	4.8
Greenwich	4.8
Imperial College London	4.7
Goldsmiths' College London	4.5
Leicester	4.5
Southampton	4.5
Derby	4.2
SMALLEST INCREASES	
Exeter	0.5
Middlesex	0.5
Queen Mary & Westfield	0.5
Thames Valley	0.5
Birmingham	0.9
Bath	1.0
Birkbeck College London	1.0
Open University	1.3
Warwick	1.4
York	1.4

University College London: biggest budget increase

Lack of PE 'turns pupils into couch potatoes'

By Hannah Betts

BRITAIN'S children are becoming a generation of couch potatoes as physical education is sidelined by the demands of the National Curriculum and a lack of funds, the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.

A survey of more than 2,000 schools by the association highlighted problems ranging from poorly maintained playing fields to a decline in inter-school competitions.

Forty per cent of primary schools and a fifth of secondary schools said that that sports programmes had deteriorated. Half of the primaries and a third of the secondaries blamed their obligations under the National Curriculum.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "Sports facilities in too many schools are not that much better than those in a banana republic. Unless the Government is prepared to push this issue to the top of the political agenda, we will see this country's youngsters turn into a generation of couch potatoes."

Charles Clarke, the Schools Minister, said: "The Government is providing £1.1 billion for capital works in schools, including sports facilities."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Divers may have been garrotted

A British deep-sea diver believed drowned in the Persian Gulf may have been executed in a double murder. Robert Glazzard, 28, and his New Zealand colleague Aaron Harper were found in the sea in January, two weeks after they went missing from their ship off Dubai. At the time the authorities made no mention of possible foul play but when the bodies were returned to their native countries, pathologists discovered both men had throat injuries consistent with having been garrotted.

At an inquest in Rochdale, Mr Glazzard's home town, police said murder squad detectives would fly to the Gulf to make further inquiries. The inquest was adjourned.

Suspect released

The last of five people questioned in the past week by Irish detectives investigating the Omagh bombing has been freed. He was released without charged after three days' interrogation at Monaghan police station.

Arctic ice thins

Parts of the Greenland ice sheet are thinning by more than a metre each year, Nasa scientists have found. They believe that the ice is sliding increasingly quickly into the sea, causing a faster rise in sea levels than melting alone.

Ferry holed

The *Stena Explorer*, ferrying more than 300 people and 70 cars from Anglesey to Dun Laoghaire, was believed to have been holed below the waterline when it hit a pier wall while attempting to dock in Ireland. No-one was hurt.

Pedigrees forged

A Lincolnshire dog breeder sold dogs that she falsely claimed had Kennel Club pedigrees. Jill Allen, who admitted forgery and trying to obtain money by deception, was bailed at Nottingham Crown Court pending sentencing.

Murder charge

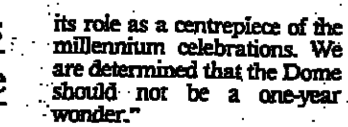
A man has appeared before Loughborough magistrates charged with murdering Rachel Glenn, 15, whose body was found in Charnwood Water, Leicestershire. Anthony Holland, 21, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody.

Licence refused

A former racing driver who lost an arm in a crash has failed to convince magistrates in Swindon that he is fit to drive. Donald Day, 64, who steers with his knees while changing gear, was appealing against the revocation of his licence.

Giant body to head sale of the millennium

All the Dome's contents can be bought at the end of next year, reports Mark Henderson



THE 90ft body that will dominate the Millennium Dome is to be the prize lot in a huge sale of the exhibition's contents when it closes at the end of 2000.

Theme parks, museums and those who have everything are expected to bid in excess of £10 million for the giant sculpture of a man and woman embracing, which houses the Body Zone. The exhibit, which is as tall as Nelson's Column, features an interactive tour of bodily functions from heartbeats to hangovers.

The sculpture could be sold abroad or to a private individual who would be under no obligation to open it to the public, even though it is part-funded by lottery money. The successful bidder will have to invest further in a building to house it : the body, designed by Nigel Coates and made of glass-reinforced concrete, is not weatherproof.

Other exhibits, such as the Mind Zone designed by Zaha Hadid, and the Spirit Level, which has attracted controversy for its lack of Christian content, will also be for sale. Only two zones will not be available: the rights to the Mobility and Communication zones will be retained by their sponsors, Ford and BT, though both are likely to remain on public view.

The Dome's attractions, including the central show, will cost £191 million out of its total budget of £758 million, with £400 million coming from the National Lottery.

The New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) will not say how much is being spent on individual zones but the Body Zone is understood to be one of the more expensive at more than £10 million.

"All the assets of NMEC will be up for sale," a spokesman for the company said. "Art galleries or museums will be able to acquire internationally famous icons of cultural value."

NMEC plans to sell the contents individually and it is not envisaged that any will remain within the Dome.

The future of the Dome itself, which cost £300 million to build, will be decided by an international competition launched yesterday by Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Government's shareholder in NMEC. More than 1,000 companies have been invited to make bids and the final decision will be made next year. Early suggestions include a conference or shopping centre, a sports stadium, a theme park or a film studio.

There will be no reserve price but working accounts suggest that it will go for at least £50 million. It will not necessarily be sold to the highest bidder: the competition will take into account how proposals will contribute towards the regeneration of the Greenwich peninsula.

Greenwich Council will also have to grant planning permission for the new use, following a full public consultation. Permission was granted for the Dome itself on the understanding that it would be environmentally friendly; the ban on car parking was one condition.

Lord Falconer said: "We want a fitting use for the Dome that preserves its design integrity, in keeping with its role as a centrepiece of the millennium celebrations. We are determined that the Dome should not be a one-year wonder."

The Government is more concerned with ensuring that the Dome proves an appropriate legacy for the millennium than recouping its building costs, he said. With maintenance work every 25 years, it could last "for generations".

The money raised will be divided between English Partnerships, the Government regeneration agency that owns the site on which the Dome is built, and NMEC. If NMEC's share of the cash brings it into surplus, that money will be handed to the Millennium Commission to distribute in its normal way, while money paid to English Partnerships will replace part of its grant from the Treasury.



SUZANNE HUBBARD

Lord Falconer of Thoroton said yesterday that maintenance work every 25 years could ensure the Millennium Dome could last "for generations".



The Body Zone is expected to go on sale for £10 million

Australia turns down day of fame in Dome

By Dominic Kennedy

IN A gesture that would make Barry Humphries's alter ego, Sir Les Patterson, drool, Australia has declined the offer of a day in the Millennium Dome to showcase its arts, history and civilisation.

The Australians have informed the exhibition organisers that it would take at least two days to do justice to their long list of cultural achievements.

A nation a day is being invited to Greenwich as part of the "Our Town's Story" exhibition, which is being sponsored by McDonald's, the hamburger restaurant chain. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has assigned a civil servant to work with the organisers, the New Millennium Experience Company, to persuade countries to join in.

South Africa, the United States, France, Canada and Japan have so far said they would like join the storytellers in the Dome, on what will be called the "World Stage". So far 199 of the 209 local education authorities in the United Kingdom have signed up to send a delegation.

The £50 million National Programme for the millennium exhibition is being launched today by Michael Grade, the chairman of the Dome's creative review group. A new initiative, Reach for the Sky, aimed at helping teenagers to make career choices for the next millennium, is being announced, with sponsorship from the broadcaster BSkyB. It will give 1,200 people aged 14 to 16 the chance of four days intensive work experience in science and technology, the environment, journalism, sport, entertainment or the community.

Other elements of the National Programme include FutureTalk, SchoolNet 2000 and the National Skills Festival. The organisers claim everyone can take part.

Children can get involved by joining the 6,000 schools that have already registered to enter the "Voices of Promise" contest to compose a song for the millennium. They can also join the 13,000 schools involved in the Tesco SchoolNet 2000 Internet "Domesday Book", which will go live in the Dome next year.

Everybody over the age of nine can get a free e-mail address from BT as part of the FutureTalk initiative, which aims to improve communication skills. Everyone can also contribute to their community's "Our Town's Story".

Patterson: will miss out on cultural opportunity

'Peace will not come. There's evil out there'

A year after their sons were shot, two women regret support for Ulster accord, reports Martin Fletcher

TEN weeks after loyalist gunmen murdered her 26-year-old son, Ann Trainor voted Yes in the referendum on the Good Friday peace accord in the hope that no other families would have to suffer. She would not vote that way now. "I will never vote again, never," she said yesterday.

Since the referendum, 243 terrorists have been released from prison but not one gun has been surrendered by the main paramilitaries and there has been no end to the violence with which they cow and control their communities. The accord has been paralysed for months by the IRA's refusal to disarm and the Unionists' refusal to admit Sinn Fein to government until it does.

The prisoner releases were "the hardest thing to take", Mrs Trainor said. The paramilitaries were giving nothing in return. "They will not give up their arms, neither the loyalists nor the IRA. We would all love peace but I don't think there'll ever be peace. There's an awful evil out there."

Her son Damian, a Catholic, and his best friend, Philip Allen, 34, a Protestant, died a year ago this week when two masked gunmen burst into the Railway Bar around the corner from Mrs Trainor's house in the Co Armagh village of Poyntzpass. They ordered the seven customers to lie down and opened fire. On Wednesday night the villagers packed into St Joseph's church for a memorial service but "the pain will never get easier", said Mrs Trainor, who visits her son's grave daily.

Revulsion over the atrocity spurred the Province's politicians to produce the peace accord but Mr Allen's mother, Ethel, who lives opposite the bar, says she too wishes she had voted No because she "can't stand to see the prisoners released early".

Both women have particular reason for finding the releases abhorrent. If the men charged with their sons' murders are convicted at their imminent trial, they will qualify for early release after two years. More worrying for the Government is that a clear majority of Unionists now share the disillusionment with barely a month for resolving deadlock over decommissioning. In a BBC poll, 41 per cent of Unionists support the accord, down from an estimated 55 per cent in the referendum. Less than a third would support David Trimble, the First Minister, if he formed an executive with Sinn Fein without decommissioning.

The Government has abandoned hope of transferring power to a new executive next Wednesday. Attention is instead shifting to St Patrick's Day celebrations in Washington on March 17, when President Clinton will meet party leaders individually. He is expected to tell Gerry Adams and Mr Trimble that the Province will pay a heavy price in lost investment and support if the accord collapses.

Mr Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, would become intensely involved in the search for a solution by the month's end. Officials shudder at the idea of this Good Friday arriving with the accord still unfulfilled. There will be even less chance of reaching a compromise with the approaching marching season and the campaign for June's Euro elections which Ian Paisley will turn into a second referendum. Ireland's referendum vote to abolish its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland lapses on May 22 if the accord is unimplemented. At the end of this month Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, may force the issue by effectively instructing the Assembly to form the executive. She published draft procedures on Tuesday that provide for a three-hour adjournment between the Assembly convening and the parties nominating their ministers to allow for a gesture from the IRA. That way, decommissioning and the executive's formation could happen virtually simultaneously and neither side could claim to have "won".

Without such a gesture, Mr Trimble would almost certainly seek Sinn Fein's expulsion from the Assembly on the grounds that it was still wedded to violence. The nationalist SDLP would reject that, in which case Mr Trimble would probably demand a review of the accord's implementation.


PETER NICHOLLS

Ann Trainor visits the grave of her son, whose death spurred the accord. If the accused men are convicted, they will qualify for release in two years

Irish DPP to challenge IRA killers' sentences

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

IRELAND'S Director of Public Prosecutions is to challenge the sentences handed down to the Brixton prison escaper Pearse McCauley and another senior IRA member for killing a garda.

Eamonn Barnes has lodged an appeal against the 14-year sentences handed down after McCauley and Kevin Walsh pleaded guilty last month to the manslaughter of Jerry McCabe, a detective garda shot during a bungled IRA raid on a post office van in Adare, Co Limerick, in 1996.

McCauley, Walsh and two other men were originally charged with capital murder, which carries a mandatory 40-year sentence. But when key witnesses refused to testify, Mr Barnes was forced to reduce the charge to manslaughter.

The maximum sentence for manslaughter in Ireland is life imprisonment but three judges in the Special Criminal Court declined to impose it. Mr Barnes served papers on McCauley, 34, and Walsh, 42, this week, telling them of his decision to take their sentences to the Court of Criminal Appeal. The case is expected to be heard after Easter.

Mr Barnes does not believe that the judges sufficiently considered the central role played by the pair in the killing of Mr McCabe, who died in the hail of bullets from a Kalashnikov rifle fired into the unmarked police car accompanying the post office van. McCauley and Walsh, who is believed by gardai to have fired the rifle, were also given concurrent sentences for maliciously wounding Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan and for possession of firearms with intent to commit a robbery.

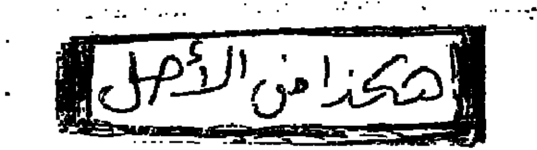
But sources said that Mr Barnes was particularly unhappy that the judges did not penalise McCauley, from Strabane, Co Tyrone, for killing McCabe while on bail pending an extradition hearing.

McCauley is wanted in Britain following his 1991 escape from Brixton prison while on remand for allegedly conspiring to murder. He fled to Ireland, where he was arrested in 1993 and sentenced to seven years in jail for possessing a gun and ammunition. He was freed in 1995 as part of the early release scheme after the first IRA ceasefire but was rearrested within seconds on a British extradition warrant. He jumped bail while awaiting extradition proceedings and linked up with Walsh's IRA unit in Munster.

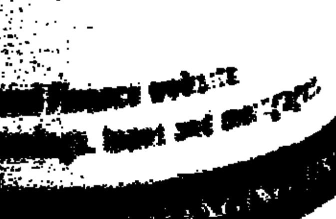
Irish government sources insisted yesterday that Mr Barnes was acting independently and not under the direction of Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, or John O'Donoghue, the Justice Minister.











Vanessa staff sacked over fake guests

By Elizabeth Judge

THE BBC has sacked three members of staff from *The Vanessa Show* over allegations that fake guests appeared on the programme.

A fourth received a formal warning and was moved to another department and a freelance worker had his contract terminated as a result of a three-week investigation.

The daytime talk show hosted by Vanessa Feltz features traumatised guests making emotional confessions. It has been under attack since reports last month alleged that researchers had booked actors from a London agency to pose as members of the public.

A programme on domestic violence featured a "battered wife" who was really an unmarried actress and two strippers who had never met were recruited to play feuding sisters. A London businessman claimed that he was paid £100 for each guest he supplied to the show.

The BBC immediately suspended five members of the team, two producers and a researcher and launched an investigation.

The corporation also introduced new measures to stop fake guests appearing on chat shows. Guests must now provide identification and sign a declaration that states that their contribution will be "entirely honest and truthful".





Feltz: her show has come under attack

A BBC spokeswoman said: "The investigation has not uncovered any evidence to prove that staff knowingly booked fake guests." She added that no other members of the Vanessa team would be questioned. The staff are not being named because they have 14 days to appeal against the decision.

A number of "confessional" shows and documentaries have recently been exposed as fake. Bogus guests have also appeared on ITV's rival programme *Trisha*.

Last week Channel 4 was fined £150,000 by the Independent Television Commission because it broadcast a documentary about young rent boys in which key scenes were faked. In *Too Much Too Young: Chickens* members of the production team posed as rent boys and their clients in three scenes. Channel 4 admitted that a "deliberate and organised deception took place".

Another Channel 4 programme, *Daddy's Girl*, was not shown after it emerged that the subjects had lied about their relationship.

Carlton was fined £2 million in January for showing *The Connection*, a documentary about the Colombian drugs trade that contained fake scenes.

The Independent Television Commission has written to independent and satellite broadcasters demanding reassurances about the authenticity of confessional shows

Last week, following the claims about *The Vanessa Show*, the BBC governors issued a statement expressing serious concerns about standards. "The board will not tolerate fakes masquerading as fact," they said.



Kathlene Shafer-Imhoff fled after being arrested on a theft charge in South Wales



Alexius and Kathlene: said to believe their father is dead

Hunt for American mother and girls

A JUDGE asked the public yesterday to help to find an American mother who vanished with her daughters after allegedly telling them their father had died in an accident.

Kathlene Shafer-Imhoff was divorced from her husband, Lars, a year ago. She fled with Alexius, 6, and Kathlene, 5, after a visit in July. Lawyers for Mr Imhoff sought help in Britain because his former wife was arrested on a charge of theft in Newport, South Wales, in January. She disappeared afterwards.

Sean McNally, solicitor for the father, said Mrs Shafer-Imhoff was a "Scarlet Pimpernel who uses disguise to avoid capture". He said the 34-year-old secretary may be travelling with her mother, Lonna Shafer, a businesswoman based in Switzerland. Mrs Shafer-Imhoff also uses the names Kathlene Anderson and Ashley Anderson.

Mr Imhoff, 38, a welder from North Dakota, has custody of the girls. At the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Sumner appealed for the public to watch out for them. Mr McNally said: "They do not attend school to our knowledge. They lead a peripatetic life with a mother who has told them their father is dead."

Anyone with information is asked to contact 0171 242 2877 or 0171 936 6000.

Reith kept 'hate list' in his head

By Robin Young

LORD REITH, the first Director-General of the BBC, had a mental hate list that included Winston Churchill, Earl Mountbatten, Field Marshal Montgomery and the philosopher Bertrand Russell, his daughter has disclosed.

Reith's personal animosities are detailed by Marista Leishman in an entry in *The Dictionary of Scottish Biography*. Mrs Leishman describes her father as an impossible man who was highly ambitious and kept a mental list of hatreds born in rivalries going back to the early days of the BBC.

Churchill clashed with Reith, head of the corporation from 1927 to 1938, over how the BBC organised its coverage. Though Reith was given ministerial posts during the war years, he felt that the Prime Minister was unreceptive and unwelcoming towards him.

Of the other names on her father's hate list, Mrs Leishman said yesterday: "It was just a clash of very big personalities and rivalries." There was, she insisted, no vendetta against those on the list. "My father was a fair man and it was very much a personal stance."

Mrs Leishman said that Lord Reith, who died aged 81 in 1971, was obsessed with work at the expense of his family. "You didn't converse with Lord Reith. You listened respectfully, trying from time to time to poke in your bit — only to feel that it hadn't actually lodged anywhere."



£6.50 to enter Westminster's House of Fun

But peers' protest against charges could end move to boost tourist numbers, writes James Landale

PLANS to boost the Palace of Westminster as a tourist attraction could founder on peers' objections to a proposed £6.50 admission charge.

An estimated 160,000 extra visitors are expected in August and September next year if the proposals by Commons authorities are agreed. This would be half the 320,000 tourists who flock to Buckingham Palace over ten weeks each summer.

But many peers are set against the move, which would give the public an insiders' view of the Commons while MPs are on holiday. They believe people should get in for nothing. One senior peer said: "We are going to fight this. In principle, we feel that entrance should be free."

If the plans to charge for entry are defeated, it is unclear whether the proposals to open up the building to tourists would survive. MPs and peers would have to decide whether they could afford to spend thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money to cover costs.

MPs think the charge is acceptable to enable more people to see the home of Britain's democracy. The Commons is expected to back the plans when they reach the floor of the House just after Easter. But peers have put off making any decision until the summer.

The plans, scheduled to come into effect in the summer of 2000, would allow the public to visit the Palace of Westminster during the eight-week August and September recess.

Tickets would be bought from a new booth in Victoria Tower Gardens just beyond the Lords' end of the building on the Thames embankment. Adults would pay £6.50; OAPs, students and the unemployed £4; and children £3.50. The not-for-profit scheme is expected to break even after five years.

Visitors, armed with audio-guides, would start in the Lords and visit the Queen's Robing Room before passing through the Royal Gallery and the Prince's Chamber to the peers' Chamber. After walking through the Peers' Lobby, the Central Lobby, and the Members' Lobby, they would enter the Commons Chamber and Division lobbies.

After passing through St Stephen's Hall, they will then be able to see Westminster Hall, the huge room and original chamber saved from the fire which destroyed the rest of the buildings in 1834.

A new range of souvenirs — items such as Lords' baseball caps and oven gloves are already available — would be on sale. Guides would answer queries.

The proposals have been backed by the Commons Administration Committee, Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, and Peter Jennings, the Serjeant-at-Arms. He said: "In my view, it is important that the Palace of Westminster is open for people to see either the political process or the Barry and Pugin extravaganza."

But the proposals have still to be agreed by the Lords Administration and Works Committee. "We do know that some members in the House of Lords have reservations about charging members of the public to come in," one Commons official said. Another said: "There is vociferous opposition within the Lords, particularly among crossbenchers, and the plans could be a further source of conflict between the two Houses." Some MPs are also opposed: 62 signed an Early Day Motion against the plans.

At least 70 per cent of visitors are expected to be overseas tourists. Existing arrangements for visitors will not be changed. Some 200,000 members of the public come to sit in the Strangers' Gallery of the Commons chamber a year. While most obtain tickets from their MPs, some queue for hours outside the Palace. Another 150,000 come as MPs' guests to take a tour round the so-called Line of Route.

Even if the scheme is backed, the Palace of Westminster will still be relatively low on the list of London's top tourist attractions. Top comes the British Museum with 6.1 million visitors a year, followed by the National Gallery with 4.8 million visitors.

Leading article, page 23



In tune: the singer Patti Boulaye with William Hague after the Tory leader unveiled her yesterday as a potential Conservative candidate for the new London authority. Miss Boulaye, who must now be officially selected, said she wanted particularly to win over the black and minority vote

ROUGH GUIDE TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Five things you must see:

1. Tony Blair's frontbench seat in the Commons Chamber.
2. The gilded and awe-inspiring splendour of the House of Lords.
3. Madam Speaker, Betty Boothroyd's Commons throne.
4. Westminster Hall, where Sir Thomas More and Charles I were tried and sentenced to death.
5. The Terrace overlooking the Thames and Westminster Bridge. The best place for an evening drink in London.

Five things you may not know:

1. Spencer Perceval was the only British Prime Minister assassinated there (in 1812).
2. No one can ever be declared dead there because Parliament was once a Royal palace. MPs and peers who do die are declared dead on arrival at hospital.
3. William Wallace was hanged, drawn and quartered in New Palace Yard.
4. The modern Palace is only 150 years old.
5. After the Restoration, Cromwell's body was exhumed and his head was placed on a pole on the Commons roof for 20 years.

Five things you won't see:

1. The Whips' Offices: the most secret of secret places in the whole of Westminster.
2. The Lords' rifle range where Old Labour MPs met researchers for illicit assignations.
3. Annie's Bar: famous hotbed of intrigue and gossip, now pale image of former self.
4. The showers where Ron Brown, the former Labour MP for Edinburgh Leith, was caught with his researcher.
5. The old cell hidden under the Big Ben clock tower where unruly visitors used to be incarcerated by the Serjeant-at-Arms.

Olympics chief tells MPs of vote scandal damage

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

BRITAIN'S leading Olympics official yesterday admitted to MPs that the "cash-for-votes" scandal had been "damaging in the extreme".

Craig Reedie, one of the two British members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), reiterated that no decision would be made on whether London should bid for future Games until a new system for selecting host cities had been put in place. Mr Reedie said he was hopeful that the IOC meeting in Lausanne, which will decide whether to expel members found to have received favours from bidding cities, would "begin the process of re-establishing" the movement's credibility.

At the meeting on March 17 and 18, the IOC is also expected to agree a new selection process and to give a vote of confidence to Juan Antonio Samaranch, its president, who has been ignoring worldwide calls to step down. Four members have already resigned and several more may be recommended for expulsion when the IOC completes its own investigation.

Mr Reedie told the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee that "allegations made against a number of IOC members are damaging in the extreme. I am aware that the process of resolving that causes constant public debate. That in itself is damaging."

Alan Keen, Labour MP for Feltham and Heston, told Mr Reedie, who is also chairman of the British Olympic Association, that the scandal had caused anger among sporting enthusiasts. Several members pressed Mr Reedie on why the IOC did not act sooner, given that rumours about corruption had circulated for years. He said that the disclosures about Salt Lake City securing the 2002 Games were the first definite evidence.

Mr Reedie will be voting in Lausanne but the Princess Royal, the other IOC member in Britain, will be on a long-scheduled Far East tour.

Gerald Kaufman, the committee chairman, said the solution was "no gifts of any kind, however small, down to a T-shirt, no hospitality of any kind, gift of any kind, including an economy air fare or grade three hotel ... anybody accepting any gift of any kind from the IOC to be sacked and anybody caught offering anything of that kind automatically to be disqualified."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tories are 'sidelined' by boycott

GORDON BROWN called the Conservatives a "marginalised sect" yesterday after they went ahead with their threat to boycott the first meeting of a cross-party group overseeing preparations for the euro.

The Chancellor said that the Tories were "denying choice to the British people". "Their motto is to be unprepared," he told cheering Labour MPs in the Commons. John Bercow, Conservative MP for Buckingham, said Mr Brown was trying to drag Britain into the euro "with a cost that he won't calculate, for a benefit he cannot quantify at a risk to the British people which he dare not admit".

Leading article, page 23

Benefit tax move

Treasury plans to tax child benefit for higher earners were backed by the Social Security Select Committee yesterday. It found that there was a powerful case for making higher-rate taxpayers pay tax on the child benefit they receive, in line with proposals set out by the Chancellor in last year's Budget. However, the MPs insisted that any revenue raised should be ring-fenced for improving child benefit rates, in contrast to Mr Brown's plans.

Watchdog to rule on Serps payouts

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

THE Parliamentary Ombudsman is to decide within six weeks whether the Government mishandled changes to the state pension scheme which could cost widows up to £2,500 a year.

Michael Buckley could recommend that the Department of Social Security should compensate those affected. The point at issue is that the Government did not highlight changes to the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) which would halve the payment to widows from April next year. Women whose husbands die before then will continue to receive the full payout given to their spouses, but after that date widows could lose £2,500 a year.

Stephen Timms, the Social Security Minister, said that individuals had to prove their financial decisions were detrimentally affected in order to claim from existing compensation arrangements.

Alaska stays cool as chronically ill win the right to get stoned

Financier Soros championed campaign for homegrown cure, Giles Whittell writes

IT SHOULD be a mellow weekend for the dope smokers of Alaska. In a major step forward for a national legalisation campaign, Alaskans with permission from their doctors may now own up to three flowering marijuana plants and an ounce of the drug in smokeable form.

Alaska's medical marijuana law went into force yesterday despite stiff opposition from the state governor and other top officials. Passed after a campaign funded almost entirely by George Soros, the Hungarian-born financier, it decriminalises the drug for critically ill patients who say that it soothes their pain and boosts their appetite. In practice, critics argued, it has legalised marijuana at a stroke over an area nearly the size of Western Europe.

The new law allows sufferers of cancer, glaucoma, Aids-related illnesses and other "debilitating" conditions to grow their own marijuana without fear of arrest. It also requires the state to set up a register of users' names and issue identification cards to ward off suspicious police.

Though similar to measures already passed in California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona and Nevada, the Alaskan law could prove a turning point in a nationwide crusade backed by film stars and some doctors as well as legions of ex-hippies. It covers a thinly policed region larger than the other five states combined, where the freedoms of an increasingly crowded frontierland are jealously defended and the marijuana is as potent as any in the world.

Identification cards for legal users of the drug have not yet been issued even though the law was approved by 60 per cent of the state's voters in last November's election. Police have so far taken a conciliatory approach to its enforcement.

"Nothing could be worse than to jack up some dying cancer patient on a drug charge," Del Smith, Alaska's deputy commissioner of public safety, said after the election. Police are now establishing new protocols for asking suspects why they need the drug.

In 1975 the state Supreme Court ruled that possession of small amounts of marijuana, even for recreational purposes, was allowed under a privacy clause in the Alaskan constitution.

Declared illegal again in 1990, marijuana has nonetheless become the relaxant of choice for thousands of Aids and cancer patients across America.

In his guise as a philanthropist, Mr Soros backed California's 1996 medical marijuana initiative and paid $126,000 (£78,000) towards gathering signatures and advertising for the Alaskan initiative last year. Government efforts to undermine the medical marijuana drive have foundered in the courts and the media.

Dan Lungren, the California Attorney General who vowed to prosecute dope-smokers whatever their illness, became a national laughing stock in the Doonesbury cartoon strip. Later in 1996 an attempt by the Clinton Administration to remove the licences of doctors who wrote chits approving marijuana use by their patients was struck down in a federal court.

The American Medical Association has refused to endorse marijuana as a therapy for grave illnesses, but sufferers claim that it lacks the side effects of prescription drugs. As one Alaskan with Aids put it: "Sure, I'm stoned for half an hour, but that's something I can live with."

Pilot in cable car tragedy is cleared

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ITALIANS yesterday reacted with shock and anger to the acquittal of a US Marine pilot on all charges of reckless flying when his jet sheared a gondola cable above an Italian ski resort, killing 20 people just over a year ago.

Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, who is visiting the United States, described the verdict as "disconcerting" and "baffling". The Italian leader said he would like to know the reasoning behind the judgment and added that he would seek clarification from President Clinton today on whether further legal steps were possible in the US. "If those accused are not guilty then we would like to know who is," Signor D'Alema said.

A court-martial jury of eight officers cleared Captain Richard Ashby, 31, an officer with an impeccable record, on 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter, dereliction of duty and other charges that carried a maximum penalty of 200 years in prison.



Captain Ashby arrives at court to hear the verdict

The verdict, after a five-week trial at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, was greeted with outrage by Valdo Spini, chairman of the parliamentary defence committee, who said: "The blood froze in my veins when I heard it."

Italian authorities had wanted the four-man crew of the Prowler jet to be tried in Italy, but the Pentagon whisked them out of the country, citing America's right to hold any trial in the US under Nato treaty provisions.

Signor Spini said that the London Convention, under which servicemen have the right to be tried in their own countries, needed to be revised "otherwise this is the kind of verdict which we will get".

He said that the families of the victims and the MPs who represented them would continue to search for the truth. "Someone must be to blame, and if it is not the US crew, then who is it?" he asked.

The court-martial prosecution accused Captain Ashby of "flat-hatting" — aviation slang for reckless flying — during the 42-minute training flight. They said he violated the mission's speed limit of 517 mph and the altitude restriction of 2,000ft. The jet, travelling at 621 mph, cut the cable 370ft above the valley floor.

But in an embarrassing admission, the prosecution agreed that the ski lift was not shown on maps issued to Captain Ashby and his crew. The defence argued that even a highly experienced pilot could not have missed hitting the cables after veering the plane suddenly into the ski area. Expert testimony showed that an optical illusion caused by the mountain terrain could have made him think he was flying higher than he really was.

Mauro Gilmozzi, the Mayor of Cavalese, the mountain resort where the disaster occurred, said he was appalled. "This is a profound injustice, an affront to common sense and an insult to the families of those who died," he said.

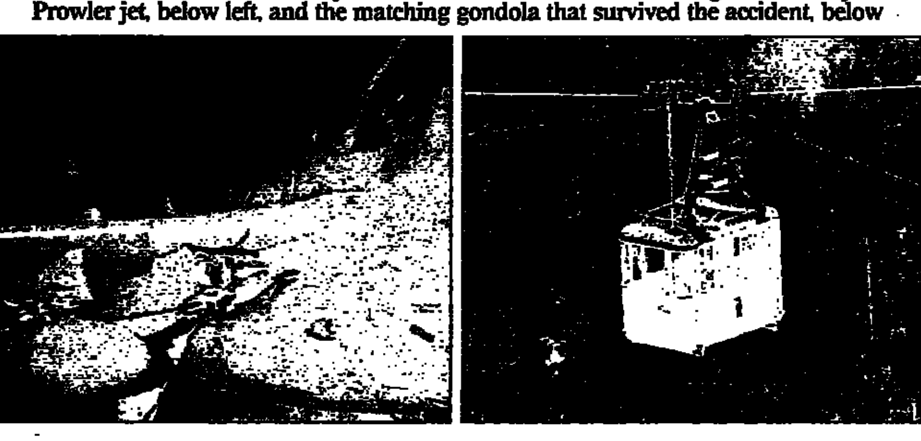
"There is no doubt in any of our minds that the US pilots were to blame. Their recklessness caused the deaths. They were flying criminally low. We had warned time after time that an accident was going to happen because of these low flights through the valley."

The skiers who died were from Italy, Germany, Belgium, Austria and The Netherlands. Lawyers for their families are seeking damages from the US Government. The Cavalese cable car recently resumed working, and the resort has tried to put the deaths behind it in the current skiing season.

PINO FARINACCI / EPA



The scene of devastation left by the cable-car disaster, above, damage suffered by the Prowler jet, below left, and the matching gondola that survived the accident, below



DiCaprio in $45m suit over fist fight

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE *Titanic* star Leonardo DiCaprio has been served with a $45 million (£27 million) lawsuit by a screenwriter who claims the actor incited a friend to hit him in a row over his girlfriend, the actress Elizabeth Berkley.

Roger Wilson, also an actor who used to sing on Broadway and fronted his own rock band, says he had to abandon his singing career after he was punched in the throat outside a Manhattan restaurant by one of Mr DiCaprio's friends. He alleges that the star instigated the attack by shouting: "We'll go kick his arse." A lawyer for Mr DiCaprio rejected the allegations as "absolutely false".

The jealous quarrel began when Mr DiCaprio met Miss Berkley, who played a stripper in *Showgirls*, at the premiere of his film *The Man in the Iron Mask*. Through intermediaries, he tried to invite her to dinner but was rebuffed. Two days later Mr Wilson went to the Manhattan restaurant to tell the actor to lay off. Mr Wilson was allegedly surrounded by eight members of Mr DiCaprio's entourage and he was punched. Mr DiCaprio was later seen sporting a black eye. The suit also names others in the DiCaprio party.

Iraq sets deadly missile ambush for allied pilots

Saddam's jets trying to lure no-fly zone patrols over hidden Sam and rocket sites, writes **Michael Evans**

IRAQI fighter pilots are trying to lure British and American aircraft over hidden surface-to-air missile sites as part of the daily confrontations now taking place over northern and southern Iraq, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Robertson highlighted the dangers which confronted the British and American pilots, as both London and Washington faced condemnation from Iraq, China and Russia for waging what has been called an "undeclared war" on Baghdad.

Since Operation Desert Fox in December, when American and British forces struck at Iraqi military targets over four days, every infringement by Iraqi aircraft in the two no-fly zones and every attempt by Baghdad to shoot down patrolling coalition jets has been met with instant retaliation.

Yesterday Mr Robertson disclosed that in the past 11 weeks there had been 100 incursions into the no-fly zones by 150 Iraqi aircraft.

One of the aims of the Iraqi pilots, Mr Robertson said, was to try to draw British and American aircraft towards Sam missile sites as they turned round and headed out of the no-fly zones.

He told *The Times*: "Saddam has moved a lot of Sam missile and anti-aircraft artillery batteries into southern and northern Iraq and the Iraqi pilots are trying to lure our pilots into missile ambushes."



Robertson: "Iraqis made 100 incursions in 11 weeks"

Particularly in the north, the Iraqis have also installed huge Russian-made BM21 multiple rocket-launchers which were designed for surface-to-surface strikes. However, the Iraqis have been using them for anti-aircraft fire. Each one is capable of firing 40 210mm rockets in 20-second "ripples" over a range of about 12 miles.

Defence sources said that one of the results was that lethal rockets were coming down again and "hitting Saddam's own people".

Britain and the United States have denied that there is any secret war, insisting that every attack on Iraqi air defence sites and command and control facilities since Desert Fox has been a response to provocation.

Speaking on the BBC Radio's *Today* programme, Mr Robertson said: "Saddam and the regime are trying to kill our pilots, and there have been 50 attempts and 50 threatening attempts on our pilots in the last 11 weeks."

With Baghdad engaged in a strategy of provocation, American and British aircraft have now attacked more air defence sites than during the four-day bombings of Operation Desert Fox.

To meet the increasing threat from Iraqi missile batteries, the rules of engagement have been changed to allow more flexibility in the choice of target, with the result that command and control and communications centres have also been hit. Mr Robertson announced the change in the Commons yesterday.

He also defended the American attack on an Iraqi oil pipeline to Turkey a few days ago. He said communications facilities had been targeted, but part of the pipeline was also located in the area.

Mohammed Said al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, claimed in a letter to the president of the United Nations Security Council that the Americans were trying to destroy Iraq's oil export capacity as part of a plan to destabilise the Baghdad regime.

China yesterday condemned the raids by the Americans and British, accusing them of increasing tensions. Turkey, which expressed concern about the damage to the pipeline, also urged all sides to end the stand-off.

In the largest strike since the renewed confrontations began, American F15Es dropped more than 30 2,000lb and 500lb laser-guided bombs on Iraqi communications sites, radio relay stations and anti-aircraft artillery facilities.



An F15E taking off from Turkey on a regular patrol

Simon Jenkins, page 22



YOUSEF ALLAN / AP

Abdul-Raouf Rawabdeh, a confidant of King Hussein and now to be Prime Minister

Hussein's ally returns in new King's shake-up

By Christopher Walker
Middle East Correspondent

JORDAN'S untried new ruler, King Abdullah II, yesterday moved to stamp his mark on the running of the strategic desert kingdom with a number of key new appointments, including a Prime Minister and a chief of the royal court.

Diplomats in Amman said that the appointments, announced before the end of the official 40-day mourning period for King Hussein, showed that the new monarch was determined to promote those loyal to the late King and to himself, rather than officials regarded as in the camp of the recently deposed Crown Prince, his uncle, Hassan bin Talal.

In the shake-up, the Prime Minister appointed while Hassan was regent last August during the late King's illness, Fayez Tarawneh, was replaced by 60-year-old Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, a long-time proponent of King Hussein's liberal outlook, an experienced administrator and supporter of Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Even more significant in terms of power politics was the naming of a new chief of the royal court, traditionally the power behind the throne in the Jordanian hierarchy and of particular importance because of the 37-year-old King's youth and inexperience of world diplomacy and domestic politics.

King Abdullah, left, with Abdul-Karim al-Kabariti

The man appointed is the former Prime Minister, Abdul-Karim al-Kabariti, known as a close confidant of the late King's widow, Queen Noor, an enemy of Hassan and a politician whose 1996-97 Government was renowned both for its criticism of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and its determination to press economic reforms in the face of public protests.

Clashes with Prince Hassan were one reason for Mr Kabariti's dismissal as Prime Minister, but at the time senior Jordanians predicted that, should Prince Hassan ever be bypassed, he would make a comeback.

Prince Hamzah, King Hussein's eldest son by the American-born Queen Noor, was named as heir in King Abdullah's first decree — as requested by the late King.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Cook heads for Primakov talks

Moscow: On the last leg of his three-day trip to Russia, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, sets off today for the Black Sea resort of Sochi, accompanied by Igor Ivanov, his Russian counterpart, for a meeting with Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, who interrupted his holiday for the talks (Anna Blundy writes). They are expected to discuss Russia's chances of receiving another much-needed instalment of IMF money and co-operation in Kosovo. Despite potential tension over Kosovo — Mr Cook said that he was confident Russia would be "an honoured partner" in any post-ceasefire implementation force — the Foreign Secretary's visit has been characterised by the vocabulary of friendship and "unity of intent".

Execution 'barbaric'

Bonn: Germany condemned Arizona's gas chamber execution of a German-born convicted murderer as barbaric and criticised America for ignoring international treaties. Herta Daübler-Gmelin, the Justice Minister, said she believed the execution of convicts like Walter LaGrand, 37, executed on Wednesday for killing a bank manager in 1982, was used to help US governors to win re-election. "It is barbaric and unworthy of a state based on the rule of law," she said. *(Reuters)*

China moves millions

Shanghai: China will move another two million people in a new wave of relocations to clear the way for the giant Three Gorges Dam along the Yangtze River, the state-owned news agency Xinhua reported. The first stage involving some 1.3 million people began last year and is still under way. There have been claims that corrupt officials have failed to distribute relocation funds. The dam, due for completion in 2009, will create a 350-mile-long lake. *(AP)*

War crime trial halted



Zagreb: Croatia's first war crimes trial relating to the Second World War was adjourned shortly after it opened yesterday when the defendant, a former concentration camp commander, Dinko Sakic, 77, right, was declared unfit to stand trial.

Doctors told the court that the blood flow in Mr Sakic's brain was obstructed and his condition was unstable. The trial will resume on March 15. *(Reuters)*

Afghan foes to meet

Islamabad: Afghanistan's Taleban militia and its opponents have agreed to hold peace talks next week in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations special envoy, said. He urged the Afghan rivals to go to the talks with "a spirit of compromise and understanding, patience and a constructive approach". *(Reuters)*

Ming treasure found

A treasure trove of Ming Dynasty porcelain, jade and gold has been recovered after a three-month operation off the coast of Brunei (David Watts writes). The operation, using minisubs and guarded by the Brunei Navy, yielded three or four boxes of treasure each day. There has so far been no word of the treasure coming on the market.

Anwar lawyer wants police chief charged

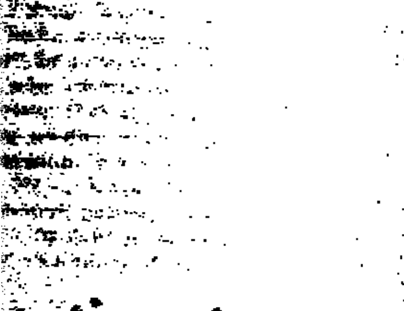
By David Watts

THE Anwar Ibrahim defence team raised the stakes at the Malaysian inquiry into his beating yesterday by demanding that the former police chief who assaulted him be charged with attempted murder.

Noting that the police officer had "gone berserk", Karpal Singh, counsel for Mr Anwar, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, told the royal commission: "If not for the intervention of the two officers [who pulled him off Mr Anwar] he may have gone to the extent of murder. "Anwar was only a breath away from becoming Prime Minister. He may still be. But that is a different matter. I would recommend a charge of attempted murder on the part of [police chief] Tan Sri Rahim Noor."

The government forsenic science expert who gave evidence at the inquiry last week has made clear that the blows Mr Anwar suffered could have been fatal. Mr Noor's counsel said there was no basis for a charge of attempted murder.

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Mr Anwar's wife, said yesterday that police had interrogated her in her home over her appearance at a weekend opposition rally.



Reformers set for big triumph in Iran's local polls

By Michael Theodoulou

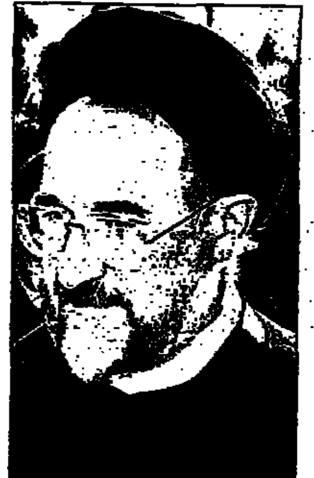
REFORMERS supporting President Khatami of Iran, including many women, appear set for a stunning victory in the Islamic Republic's first local elections, which have highlighted the waning influence of his hardline opponents. Moderates look certain to capture 13 of the 15 council seats in the capital, Tehran.

"This is a turning point for Iran," said Sadegh Samii, a British-educated publisher. The conservatives, who still control most centres of power, would have "to obey the people's choice", he added.

That remains to be seen, however. Despite his huge popular mandate, Mr Khatami's opponents have so far succeeded in slowing down the pace of his reforms and can be relied on to contest bitterly the erosion of their power.

Rubbing salt into the hardliners' wounds was the prominence of leading progressive candidates. The Tehran vote was headed by Abdullah Nouri, a key Khatami supporter and former Interior Minister who was impeached by the conservative-dominated parliament last year because of his support for greater social, political and cultural freedom. He is now well placed to take up the influential post as the Mayor of Tehran.

Hardliners even failed to take control of the holy city of Mashad, a traditionally conservative bastion where reformists and independents were leading the vote.



Khatami: his hardline foes will fight on bitterly

The landmark election was about far more than filling seats on village, town and city councils. It was introduced by Mr Khatami to boost democracy at a grass-roots level and decentralise power that has been mainly in the hands of the clerical establishment since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Victory for the reformers will give them a strong power base from which to challenge the conservatives' hold on parliament in elections next year.

"This has set a precedent. People simply won't put up with hardliners attempting to vet moderate candidates as they have in the past," said a European diplomat.

A conservative screening body had attempted to block Mr Nouri and other prominent reformers from standing in last Friday's polls, but was overruled by the President.

The results, due to be finalised in the next few days, should also boost the role of women in Iranian society and politics. They led the polls in at least 20 cities, even though they made up just 5,000 of the 300,000 hopefuls contesting some 200,000 seats across the country.

Fatemeh Khatami, the President's 61-year-old sister, was the winner in the desert town of Ardekan, capturing nearly three times as many votes as the next candidate.

Third placed in Tehran, the most strongly contested city, was Jamileh Kadivar, a former adviser to Mr Khatami and the wife of the popular Culture Minister, Ayatollah Mohajerani, another *bête noire* of the old guard.

Proof of the determination of Mr Khatami's opponents to demonstrate their authority came just hours after the polls opened when they struck back by jailing Mohsen Kadivar, a leading liberal cleric close to the President.

His arrest on charges of slander and subversion caused uproar among reformists and led to street protests in his native town of Shiraz in the south of the country.

BURHAN OZBILICI / AP



Heroes of Iran's Islamic revolution are familiar symbols on the streets of Tehran

British car's Tehran twin rules the road

Iran relies on its Hillman Hunter, writes **Michael Theodoulou** in Tehran

For Westerners, Ayatollah Khomeini's stern gaze is the most enduring symbol of the 20-year-old Islamic revolution, but for Tehran's motorists equally durable is the Paykan — a locally produced identical twin of Britain's long-forgotten Hillman Hunter.

Seven out of ten cars on the congested streets of the Iranian capital are Paykans, while once popular Chevrolets, Pontiacs and other chrome-bumpered hunks of Midwestern American steel have long gone the way of the Shah.

The Paykan's horse and chariot emblem is as immediately recognisable in Iran as the silver lady of a Rolls-Royce in Britain. There the comparison ends; the Paykan is to Iranians what the Trabant was to the East Germans, a basic but affordable means of transport.

Beige and cream appear the most exciting colours on offer, while working seatbelts are regarded as an unnecessary luxury by Tehran's steely-nerved taxi drivers. Paykan owners have a love-hate relationship with their cars; sometimes they accuse them of being outdated and uneconomical, but all are fiercely proud of the plucky vehicle whose character more than compensates for a lack of sex appeal. "I'll tell you why I prefer my Paykan to a Chevrolet," said Ali Reza, a bearded cabbie whose years negotiating Tehran's chaotic streets have left him looking as grizzled as his 15-year-old Paykan is battered. "You can't get spare parts for a Chevrolet. But you can go to the smallest village in the middle of nowhere and a mechanic will know how to fix a Paykan."

Certainly the Paykan — it means "arrow" in Persian — is something of a success story for Iranian industry, which has worked hard to achieve self-sufficiency in the face of years of international isolation. "The one who has God with him is never alone," reads a sign in an assembly plant west of Tehran that produced 110,000 cars last year.

Some, less charitably, attribute the Paykan's success to a virtual ban on car imports that protects local production and conserves foreign currency. The locally assembled Peugeot 405s are snazzier, but three times the price.

Iran's state-owned Khodro Company began assembling the Paykan in 1967 from kits supplied by Hillman's parent company in Britain, the long defunct Rootes Motor Company, later taken over by Chrysler UK. When that, in turn, was absorbed by Peugeot in 1989, Iran bought the British company's equipment and began producing the Paykan virtually on its own.

The car was due to be replaced by a more advanced model in 1978, but the Islamic revolution, which marked its 20th anniversary this week, gave it a new lease of life as international investment for joint ventures dried up.

However, the winds of change have caught up with the Paykan. It is to be phased out of production gradually as a more powerful and aerodynamic model comes on to the market in the next 18 months.

Yet with two million devoted owners, the old Paykan will be seen on streets here well into the new millennium.

UGANDA MASSACRE

Yard joins FBI in the hunt for jungle killers

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent, and Ian Brodie in Washington

THREE Scotland Yard detectives flew to Kampala last night to help the Ugandan authorities to hunt for the Rwanda rebel gang who killed four British tourists.

The team is being led by Detective Superintendent Ken Woodward, a senior officer with the Yard's Organised Crime Unit. The team will work with Ugandan police and army units and liaise with an FBI unit which was sent out earlier in the week.

The operation has been organised by the Foreign Office, which will foot the bill. The trip was agreed after discussions between Kampala and London and earlier this week the Uganda High Commission issued visas in readiness for the team.

Detective Superintendant Woodward was head of the murder and serious crime squad covering the centre of London. He recently transfered to the Yard as one of the senior officers in the Organised Crime Unit which provides officers for investigations abroad as well as for major cases in London. The other two officers have not been named. The team will advise the Ugandans on how to uncover useful evidence at the scenes of the killings and use it for possible prosecutions or identifying the killers. They may also help in taking statements from survivors and will act as co-ordinators in Britain for any Ugandan trials.

Survivors of the attack may be key witnesses if the Ugandans manage to track down the gang and bring them back for a trial. British forensic science facilities could also be used to test evidence such as bullets, DNA traces and fibres. British laboratories are regarded as world leaders in many forensic science operations.

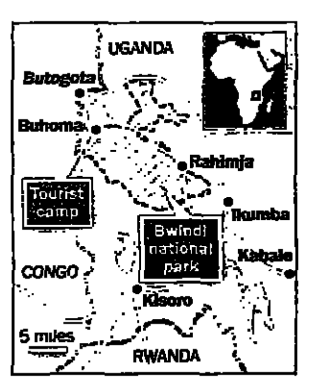
The speed with which the FBI sent two agents to help to investigate the murders in Uganda was the first test of its rapid response policy set up after the twin embassy bombings in East Africa last August. The pair arrived in Kampala on Wednesday, two days after eight foreign tourists were hacked to death by Rwandan rebels. The agents were described by a US government official as specialists in terrorist kidnappings.

The lessons of the East African bombings, in which some 240 people died, were that the FBI needed more flexibility and expertise to react to acts of terror against American citizens anywhere. The FBI found there were delays in arranging inoculations for some agents, not to mention passports. There was a scramble to organise forensic science specialists from FBI laboratories.

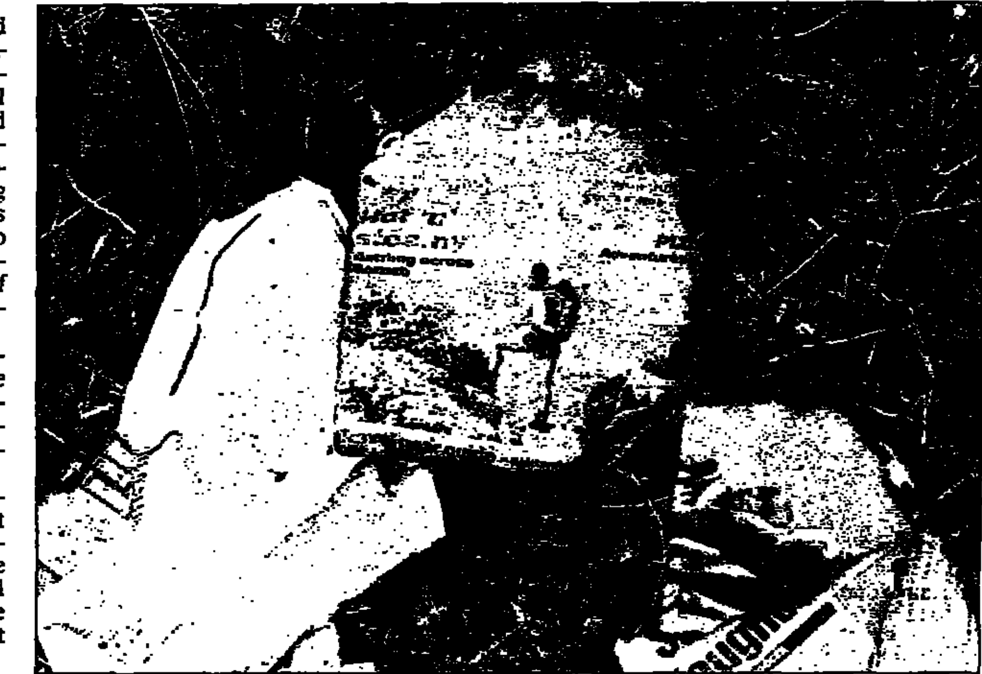
The FBI needed specialists on terrorist intelligence to help the overwhelmed Kenyan and Tanzanian police, as well as experts to handle secure communications. Eventually, the FBI had 500 agents on the ground in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Their presence contributed significantly to finding some of the alleged terrorists who were swiftly extradited to America for trial and to identifying the terrorist network of Osama bin Laden as being responsible for the bombings.

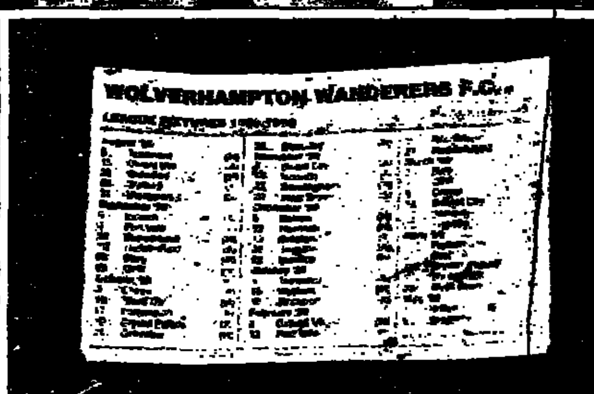
Bill Carter, an FBI spokesman, said yesterday that the agency's national security division had set up the rapid deployment teams as a counter-terrorism measure.

"They are prepared to respond within hours to be sent anywhere in the world to investigate crimes that take place against American citizens and others," Mr Carter said. "We have learnt the lessons of East Africa."



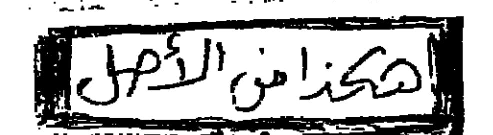






Ugandan troops, top, on patrol near Buhoma tourist camp in the Bwindi National Park, also known as the Impenetrable Forest. Yesterday the three tourist campsites, in clearings in a steep-sided valley covered in thick forest, still showed the signs of Monday's attack by Rwandan rebels. Among the blackened wrecks of four vehicles were scattered belongings and pieces of paper, including a Wolverhampton Wanderers fixture list, above, and scorched travel literature, left.

Photographs: Richard Pohle



UGANDA MASSACRE

Husband grieves for wife who loved travel

By Richard Duce and Claudia Joseph

A SURVIVOR of the tourist massacre in Uganda arrived home yesterday to help to make funeral plans for his murdered wife.

Mark Avis and his wife, Rhonda, had planned to start a new life and family in New Zealand after returning to their home in Kent from their jungle trek. Instead, the bank worker will now start preparations to accompany the body of his childhood sweetheart to Auckland for a funeral service in her home town.

The body of Mrs Avis, 27, is expected to arrive at Gatwick Airport direct from Entebbe tomorrow, along with the coffins of the four murdered Britons. Her body will then be flown to New Zealand.

A cousin of Mr Avis, 28, who has dual British and New Zealand citizenship, flew to Uganda after Monday's massacre. They returned on a flight from Nairobi to Gatwick.

Mr Avis was still too distressed to talk about the death of his wife, murdered by Hutu rebels from Rwanda while visiting the mountain gorillas in their rainforest habitat in Uganda during their two-month holiday in East Africa.

The couple had travelled extensively and the African holiday was to be a last, lengthy adventure before starting a family. Mrs Avis, a travel consultant, had told neighbours in Swanley, Kent, that the couple were eager to have children but had put off starting a family because of the many injections she needed to have for the trip to Africa. The two met as 16-year-olds at a Baptist church meeting in the Auckland suburb of Milford and had been married for seven years. They moved to England two years ago.


Mark Avis with his wife, Rhonda, who was murdered

Mr Avis's parents, John and Sue, live in New Zealand. The Avises, along with the parents of Rhonda, are too upset to talk about the tragedy. A family friend said her parents were "grieving. Rhonda was a warm, selfless and caring person with a passion for travel. When her mum asked her recently if she was sick of travelling, she replied 'Never'."

Joanne Cotton, the British tour guide who was among the Britons killed, also had a passion for travel. She had been working for Acacia Expeditions, which specialises in adventure holidays, for nine months.

Her parents, Roger and Irene Cotton, said yesterday that their grief had been eased by recollections of a recent family holiday in Zimbabwe, where Miss Cotton was based as a travel representative.

Speaking at their family home, Mr Cotton said: "We are deeply shocked by the tragic death of our daughter, Joanne. We take comfort that we recently spent two weeks with her in Zimbabwe, which we all agreed afterwards was the best family holiday we had ever had. Our abiding memory of her is one of living life to the full and thoroughly enjoying her profession."

Miss Cotton, 28, is believed to have gone to Africa, where she drove travellers to tourist sites such as Nairobi, Cape Town, Victoria Falls and Bwindi National Park, where the killings happened, after leaving the army.

Miss Cotton, who has a younger brother, was brought up in the village of Nazeing in Essex and attended Nazeing County Primary School. At 11 she moved to Sheredes School two miles away in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire.

When her family moved to Australia in 1984, Miss Cotton went with them, but she returned to England the following year to live with her grandmother and joined her friends back at the comprehensive school. A keen photographer, she left school at 16 with seven CSEs to study graphics at Ware College, Hertfordshire.

Libby Mountford, a senior teacher at Sheredes School, said yesterday: "Joanne was a lively confident, outgoing girl who always had a smile and liked to chat. She was extrovert and friendly."

Missing Briton's family fears worst

By Adrian Lee and Elizabeth Judge

THE family of a Briton kidnapped eight months ago on a gorilla-watching holiday in Central Africa said yesterday that they feared he was dead.

Douglas Kear, 66, was last seen in August when he was marched away at gunpoint from an area which, although in the Congo, is near the Bwindi National Park in Uganda, where eight tourists were massacred on Monday.

His family members said that they had not given up hope but feared the worst. Relatives said other tourists travelling to the area after his abduction should have been given stronger warnings by the Foreign Office.

Mr Kear and a Swedish couple are believed to have been seized by Rwandan Hutu rebels, also blamed for the latest deaths. His brother, Alec, 64, from Lydney, Gloucestershire, said: "They were taken off into the jungle and we have heard nothing since." He said the family had been told by the Foreign Office to say nothing.

The missing Briton, who also holds a New Zealand passport and has lived there since 1971, was on a three-week tour. The party was ambushed in the Virunga National Park. Mr Kear's son Martin, 39, who lives in New Zealand, said: "There has been guerrilla activity in that region since 1994 and I was not surprised to hear of the kidnappings this week. When I heard of the horrific outcome I was appalled. It seems ridiculous that tours were still going to the same area after Dad went missing."

Mr Kear's family is being supported by Terry Waite, the former Beirut hostage. "He has been a tower of strength to us," Mr Kear's sister-in-law, Averil, said.

The Foreign Office said last night that there was no evidence that Hutus were responsible but that a link with the latest deaths could not be ruled out.

Chinese call on leaders to atone for massacre

James Pringle reports on a growing public disillusion with Beijing's regime

TEN years after the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, relatives and friends of those killed or injured have petititioned the National People's Congress to apologise for the crackdown.

The defiant challenge to the *state security apparatus was* timed to coincide with the annual session of China's rubber-stamp parliament which was preparing to meet today amid tight security.

The ghost of the Tiananmen massacre in Beijing on June 4, 1989, still haunts Chinese leaders even as they ponder widespread unrest and nationwide grumbling over official corruption and millions of job losses in state-run industries.

The 20 petitioners, one of whom is Professor Ding Zelin, whose 17-year-old son was shot dead when the People's Liberation Army crushed the student protest, wrote: "As survivors of that event, we — the injured, disabled and families *of those killed — have lived* through ten years of torment."

In a telephone interview with *The Times* yesterday, Professor Ding said that her home was surrounded by security men and that she was told to return indoors. She expects she will not be allowed out *until the People's Congress* session ends in ten days.

President Jiang Zemin cracked down on dissent last year with long prison terms for those who set up a political party to challenge the Communist Party monopoly. He has promised to "resolutely nip in the bud" any sign of protest at a time of growing disaffection.

Mr Jiang and his Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, the economics chief, are emphasising social stability, aware that China is afflicted with many of the same problems that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr Zhu is clearly worried that the Asian financial crisis is causing the economy to *slow, with falling exports,* declining growth in retail sales and, tellingly, slow growth in electricity consumption.

But in spite of this downturn it was predicted that defence spending would rise to record levels to compensate the People's Liberation Army for the loss of its widespread business interests ordered last year.

Diplomats believe that China's leaders are worried about the boldness of opposition to their rule as the party fails to deliver on its compact with the 1.3 billion population, after disastrous policies.

That compact is: "You let us rule, and we will let you prosper." *One foreign diplomat* here said: "Prosperity and laid-off workers are a contradiction in terms, and the political opposition — small though it is — is showing it cannot be browbeaten by stiff jail terms ... The leadership is showing every sign of being afraid of the people."

Few here believe Beijing's claim that the economy grew 7.8 per cent last year, and ordinary Chinese for the first time openly express to foreigners their dismay about the Government and their future.

"There are so many unemployed that the leaders may soon be unemployed," said a mechanical engineer in Kunming, Yunnan, who had been laid off and was driving a taxi.

It is against this backdrop that it is impossible for China's leaders to forget the massacre. Tiananmen Square has been closed for "renovation" and is surrounded by a high blue fence which will not be removed until July, well after the sensitive tenth anniversary of the massacre.

VIDASARI / REUTERS



AN INDONESIAN student is arrested by security forces during pitched battles in the streets of Jakarta yesterday, hours before a visit by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

Jakarta riots mar Albright visit

***Clashes broke out after about 300* soldiers and police tried to block a march by some 2,000 students calling for President Habibie to step down.**

Student leaders later claimed that *dozens of protesters and six photog*raphers and journalists had been injured and 33 students had been arrested after troops waded into the crowd with batons.

***The demonstration had started in* the early afternoon with the students shouting "Revolution now" as they marched two miles from the Salemba Campus of the University of Indonesia to the centre of Jakarta.**

The protesters were demanding that a transitional government be installed until elections could be held. *(AFP)*

Defeated Khmer Rouge enjoys profits of crime

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PAILIN, CAMBODIA

THE surrender of the Khmer Rouge and the swearing of allegiance to the Phnom Penh Government have given the impression that the movement, responsible for killing 1.7 million, is fatally crippled. But analysts in the Cambodian capital fear that there might now be a Khmer Rouge Trojan horse in their midst.

Profiting from gem and logging concessions in their enclave near Thailand, the Khmer Rouge is amassing wealth which it refuses to share with the Government. One analyst said the Khmer Rouge of Pailin has not integrated the autonomous western region with the rest of the country, and has not handed over a single cent from timber or gem revenues. "If their interests are threatened, the reconstituted Khmer Rouge of Pailin could put up a good fight."

The fanatical political movement that regarded using *toothbrushes as a capital* crime because of its bourgeois inference is now involved in mafia-style rackets. Brothels, karaoke joints and jungle casinos dot Pailin town.

Even as the worship of Mammon thrives — with the boom of discothèque music replacing the turgid anthems of hate — its rhetoric about defending the motherland remains unchanged. While the guerrilla group does appear to be seriously weakened, it has taken on a different identity, calling itself the Democratic National Union Movement.

Two of its most wanted leaders, former President Khieu Samphan, 67, and Nuon Chea, 71, live in palatial bungalows protected by a minefield. The two who wrote the blueprint for one of the century's most brutal regimes defected in December and the Government is now awaiting a United Nations report on whether there is evidence to try them.

But in the interest of peace that leaders such as King Norodom Sihanouk say the country desperately needs, they were given a tour by Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, and allowed to return to Pailin despite calls for their arrests. The Khmer Rouge says any trial must bring to book all those responsible, including America and Vietnam. The underlying threat is that, if only its leaders were targeted, "it would be war again".

"With so many former Khmer Rouge now in the army, in theory it would be possible to seize power," said one observer in Phnom Penh.

But to this correspondent, who has covered the brutal war in Cambodia, the best chance for peace is for the rank and file to acquire a taste of the best, and worst, of capitalism. Perhaps, once they have become used to using toothbrushes, it would be difficult to persuade the cadre to *take up arms again.*

Germans prepare for 'most dangerous mission since the war'

Bonn Defence Minister tells Roger Boyes about risks of sending troops to Kosovo

GERMANY'S Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping, gave a warning yesterday that the peacekeeping plan for Kosovo represented "our most dangerous mission since the end of the Second World War".

In an interview with *The Times*, the minister said that the perils would be far greater than in Bosnia and that German troops were being given an extra five weeks of training to prepare themselves. Some 28,000 soldiers are to take part in the multinational Nato-led force.

British troops are already in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the final contingent is likely to comprise 8,400 British and 5,500 German soldiers. The Kosovo deployment marks a historical breakthrough for Germany. Only after years of debate did it accept the idea of sending ground troops to Bosnia. That German contingent comprised mainly medical, transport and signals staff. Kosovo is different. Heavy armour, including German Leo and British Challenger tanks, will be moving in. Herr Scharping, who arrives in London on Monday for talks with his counterpart, George Robertson, says that the Nato mission in Kosovo will have three components: to protect the 1,300 unarmed monitors sent by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe; to implement a Kosovo agreement; and to verify and launch operations from the air.

Herr Scharping refuses to define the mission as military intervention but plainly force may be needed at each stage. The agreement will entail the disarming of the Kosovo Liberation Army, protecting disarmed ethnic Albanians and supervising the withdrawal of Serb units. All these activities are potential flashpoints.

The air operations are, in essence, Nato's big stick. The threat of bombardment is the only real source of pressure on President Milosevic. "The experience of the past ten years is that Milosevic caves in only at the very last moment, so we need credible and intensive pressure," Herr Scharping said. German troops could expect to stay in place "for the duration of an agreement, at least three years".

It is a measure of the changes in Germany that he could speak so openly about deploying troops. Last week he gained parliamentary approval for a Kosovo mission, while the goal of the operation, which he defines as "avoiding new mountains of corpses and new waves of refugees", seems to be understood by ordinary Germans.

The only protests are likely to come from rank and file Greens, but they have never been so out tune with the national mood. Germany has turned away from its modern pacifist tradition and its instinct to draw into a shell when called upon to act.

Chirac's family falls out over women MPs

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Chirac received an unusual and embarrassing put-down yesterday when his wife, Bernadette, publicly contradicted him over plans to feminise the French parliament.

In an interview, the famously long-suffering Mme Chirac broke her traditional silence to oppose a government-sponsored proposal to impose quotas for women MPs. Her comments also amounted to an attack on her daughter, Claude — M Chirac's closest political adviser — and on the Prime Minister's wife, Sylviane Agacinski, the brains behind the project. It was Mme Agacinski who convinced her Socialist husband, Lionel Jospin, to promote the so-called parity legislation. And it was Mlle Chirac who persuaded her centre-right father that he too had to support the project.

But the President's wife told *Le Figaro* yesterday: "I cannot accept the idea." Mme Chirac rubbed salt into the head of state's wounds by describing him as a macho man with "a certain taste for provoking" women.

The implication is that his backing is a hypocritical manoeuvre to improve his standing with younger voters.

The interview was all the more surprising since Mme Chirac has portrayed herself as a loyal housewife who looks after her husband and "has a strict duty" to avoid public pronouncements. But it may signal the start of a political offensive from a woman whose demure public persona is far removed from the reality.

Mme Chirac is a councillor in the Corrèze region, and yesterday she told the newspaper: "I have not abandoned hope of holding other positions." Her criticism of the legislation may be a thorn in the presidential side, but it is an astute personal career move that will win her support among the centre-right electorate.

Many conservative voters are appalled at the Bill to promote "the equal access of men and women to public office". Although just 59 of France's 577 MPs are women, one of the lowest percentages in Europe, rightwingers want to encourage, rather than impose, change.

They say the Government's legislation will reduce voter choice. This view is backed by followers of the feminist icon, Simone de Beauvoir, who fear women MPs will become a category apart selected for their gender and not their talents. But Mme Agacinski believes legislation is the only means of reforming France's notoriously macho public life. Her husband and his left-wing Cabinet seem to have been given little choice except to agree.

If M Chirac had listened to his instincts, he would have blocked the parity Bill. But he listened to his daughter, who told him he would appear old-fashioned unless he threw his weight behind it.



Claude Chirac, left, the President's daughter, and her mother, Bernardette, who are at odds on reform plans



Dumas: allegedly took gifts paid for by Elf

Ex-lover accuses Dumas in Elf affair

BY ADAM SAGE



BORIS HORVAT / AFP

Christine Deviers-Joncour claims her former lover is lying to the Elf inquiry

ROLAND DUMAS, France's highest judge and former Foreign Minister, was yesterday dumped in a legal minefield by his ex-mistress in connection with an inquiry into alleged bribery at the heart of French public life.

Christine Deviers-Joncour told a judge she had bought M Dumas 12 Ancient Greek statues worth a total of Fr264,000 (£27,500) with money supplied by Elf-Aquitaine, the oil company. Her claim that M Dumas knew the origin of the funds places him at the centre of allegations that Elf tried to buy government decisions in its favour.

In an interview published in *Paris-Match* yesterday, Mme Deviers-Joncour made plain her intention to abandon the president of the French Supreme Court to his own fate. Having shielded M Dumas for two years, she now accuses him of lying.

French justice has been looking into claims that Elf gave millions of francs to Mme Deviers-Joncour in the hope she would influence M Dumas, with whom she had an affair in the early 1990s.

At one stage Mme Deviers-Joncour was remanded in custody for five months when it emerged that she had received a Fr59 million commission from Elf after the Government approved the 1991 sale of warships to Taiwan. But the inquiry was floundering, with no proof that the late President Mitterrand's Foreign Minister knew Elf was funding his mistress.

Until now. Yesterday Mme Deviers-Joncour said the former Foreign Minister had greatly admired the Greek statues that were on show on the day before an important auction in 1990.

On the morning of the sale, Alfred Sirven, a director of Elf, arrived at her house with an envelope containing Fr300,000, she claimed. "Buy what you want with this money and surprise him," said M Sirven, according to Mme Deviers-Joncour. She said M Dumas knew of M Sirven's visit and cash payment.

Yesterday M Dumas's lawyers acknowledged he received the gifts, but denied that he was aware of who paid for them.

Germany gives way on farm reform

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

HOPES for settlement in the European Union's quarrel over spending reform rose yesterday when Germany bowed to a central French demand on financing of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

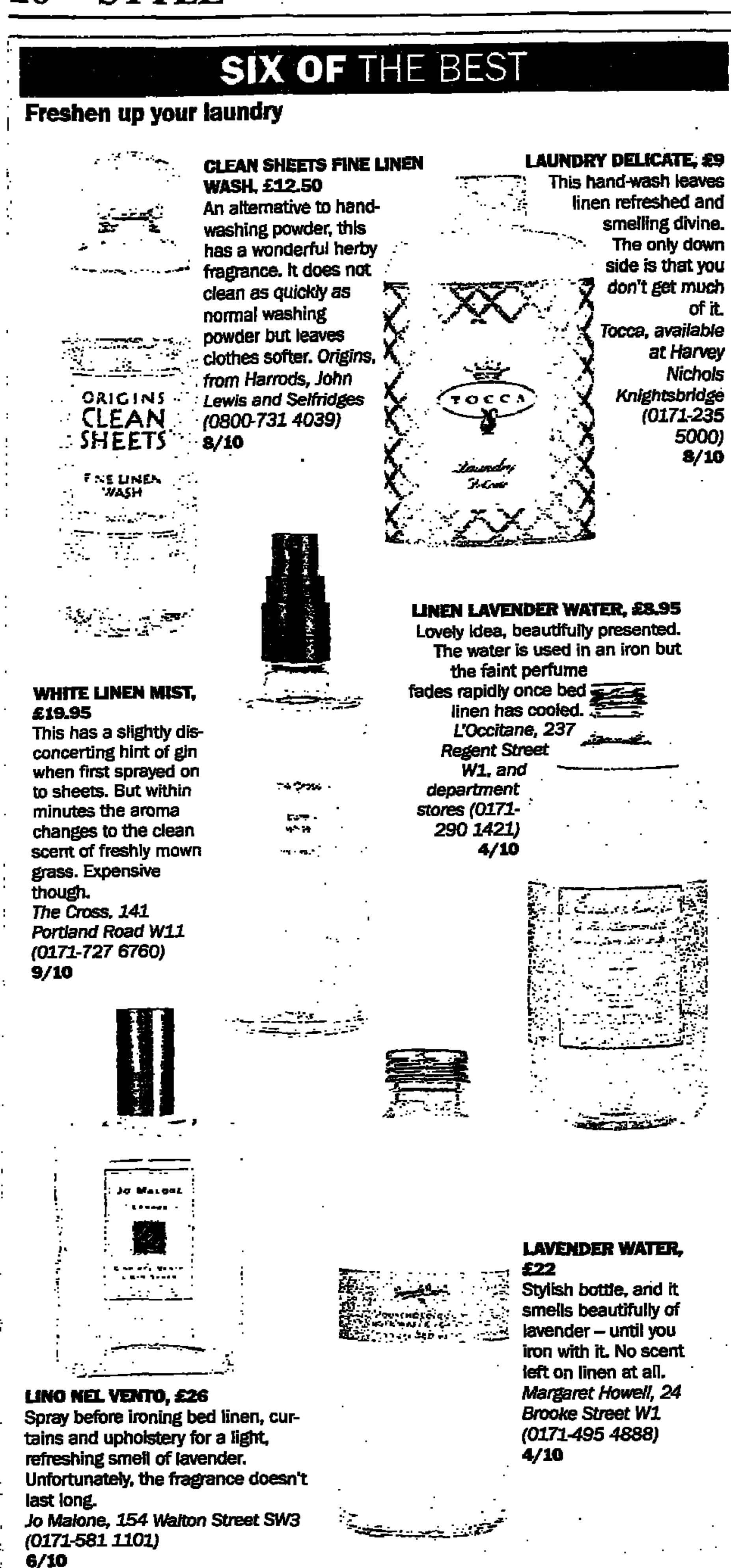
French ministers claimed victory when German officials conceded that they saw no point in continuing to press Paris to take responsibility for paying directly a share of the billions of pounds of annual EU subsidies which go to its farmers.

France's refusal to accept the German and British-backed scheme for so-called "co-financing" of the £30 billion CAP has been a central sticking-point in the attempt to produce a new six-year budget package for the whole Union. EU leaders face a March 25 deadline for settling the package. The German climbdown cleared the air for farm ministers as they began their latest attempt to revamp the CAP in Brussels last night.

Germany had tabled the co-financing scheme as the best way to achieve its goal of cutting its own £8 billion net contribution to the EU budget. Bonn's surrender to France will help to repair strained relatons between the two core states of the EU, but it leaves untouched the key question of how the EU will carve up spending in an overall budget that is due to shrink in real terms. The farm programme, which takes half the budget, is at the heart of the reform effort, followed by regional aid, which consumes a third.

SIX OF THE BEST

Freshen up your laundry



CLEAN SHEETS FINE LINEN WASH, £12.50
An alternative to hand-washing powder, this has a wonderful herby fragrance. It does not clean as quickly as normal washing powder but leaves clothes softer. *Origins, from Harrods, John Lewis and Selfridges (0800-731 4039)*
8/10

LAUNDRY DELICATE, £9
This hand-wash leaves linen refreshed and smelling divine. The only down side is that you don't get much of it. *Tocca, available at Harvey Nichols Knightsbridge (0171-235 5000)*
8/10

LINEN LAVENDER WATER, £8.95
Lovely idea, beautifully presented. The water is used in an iron but the faint perfume fades rapidly once bed linen has cooled. *L'Occitane, 237 Regent Street W1, and department stores (0171-290 1421)*
4/10

WHITE LINEN MIST, £19.95
This has a slightly disconcerting hint of gin when first sprayed on to sheets. But within minutes the aroma changes to the clean scent of freshly mown grass. Expensive though. *The Cross, 141 Portland Road W11 (0171-727 6760)*
9/10

LAVENDER WATER, £22
Stylish bottle, and it smells beautifully of lavender – until you iron with it. No scent left on linen at all. *Margaret Howell, 24 Brooke Street W1 (0171-495 4888)*
4/10

LINO NEL VENTO, £26
Spray before ironing bed linen, curtains and upholstery for a light, refreshing smell of lavender. Unfortunately, the fragrance doesn't last long. *Jo Malone, 154 Walton Street SW3 (0171-581 1101)*
6/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

The secret is learning to pull the right strings

Drawstring pants are back. And if you want to avoid looking like a puppet, loosen up and let them hang around your navel

CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

There is a generation of women for whom mention of the word drawstring conjures a host of images, none of them compatible with high fashion.

This is, roughly speaking, *the generation that was reared* on a television diet of Andy Pandy — that strange, androgynous puppet who jerked about dressed in a shapeless Pierrot costume fastened at the neck, wrist and ankle with stiff, drawstring-tied frills. The same generation tends to have been educated at schools where domestic science departments were run by brisk, efficient women whose idea of a proper preparation for married life was a light hand with a Victoria sandwich and the ability to sew a proper casing and run a drawstring through it without getting it all twisted.

I am a veteran of several early skirmishes with drawstring casings, mainly on lengths of gingham in my house colour (bad-egg yellow). On shoe bags, sewing tidies and primitive attempts at skirts, the results were always the same: bunchy, amateurish and heavily speckled with needle-pricks of blood and tears of rage.

A bit later, it is true, drawstrings *did* creep over my fashion horizon, as the insecure fastenings of off-the-shoulder blouses in highly flammable cotton voile (I had a lovely one, in cherry-coloured embroidered organza), and gypsyish ruffled skirts, decorated with tribal patterns of uncertain ethnic origin. Sooner or later the drawstring would always get caught on something and disappear up its own casing with the speed of a fleeing black mamba, and then you'd have to spend hours fiddling about with a little gold safety pin trying to coax it out again.

Years passed and drawstrings vanished from my life, reappearing sporadically at the waistband of a delectable pair of lacy-knit babies' leggings, or in the oddly frivolous gathered ankles of soldiers' khakis. But suddenly my new *Vogue* falls open at a Miu Miu nylon skirt and top, gathered in elegant wrinkles on to a wholly delectable leather drawstring. Good gracious. Evidently it is time for me to get out my little gold safety pin again.

I didn't think that it was going to be easy. Drawstrings would be all very well if it were not for all the gathering involved. Bad enough when one is talking about some kind of long, trailing, romantic skirt. But as for drawstring trousers — well, if there is a better way of adding six inches to one's waist and behind, I have not yet discovered it. In fact, the more I *think* about drawstring trousers, the more rebellious I feel. Perhaps, like those huge, flat Mary Jane shoes with the strap across the thickest part of the instep, this may have to be one fashion to which I refuse to fall victim.

Then, on my quest for a comfortable and elegant working wardrobe, I found myself trying on, more from a sense of *duty than with any enthusiasm*, a couple of pairs of drawstring trousers, one in navy canvas by Armani, and another in sand-coloured polyester by Donna Karan, and a kind of conversion took place. My error, it appears, has been to tie the string too tight, lashing it at the waist as though I expected a force nine gale to blow up. Hence the unflattering bunching effect fore and aft.

Now, said the sympathetic clothes consultant who had taken me in hand, if I were to loosen the string a little, so that the waistline fell in a gentle curve just below navel level, I would see a startling improvement. She was right. My Donna Karan strides, which — as I had been wearing them — suggested an unfortunate misalliance between Field Marshal Montgomery and Mrs Arabella Bloomer, slunk down towards my hipbones. Worn with Warehouse's shoulder-buttoned khaki rib T-shirt with a little buttoned pocket on the upper arm, the effect was of a sexy deserter from some hitherto unknown female offshoot of the French Foreign Legion.

You can guess the rest. The spectre of Andy Pandy has been banished and I simply can't understand how I put up for so long with the tight, unyielding denim waistband of my jeans cutting into my tender midriff. I am probably too mean to buy drawstrings from Armani or Prada, but there are plenty of alternatives. At French Connection there is a good version of the military Donna Karan look, in sand or black cotton with reinforced knees, Velcro-fastening pockets and ties at waist and ankle. A techno style in sheeny charcoal cotton and nylon with leg pockets and a stitched front seam is £70: soft, draping rayon and viscose pants in black, white or sky blue are £45: plain linen wide-leg pants are £65 (a matching drawstring jacket with a pouch pocket is £110); and, for the urban peasant, French Connection has wide pants with a button fly and a drawstring waist in an extraordinary, but quite attractive, sort of gold-brown sacking for £45.

At Laura Ashley, for a long time the home of the supremely unflattering trouser, there are some admirably plain, rather Frenchified slate linen-mix drawstring pants for £45 (avoid at all costs the *print* version, which would infallibly turn anyone, however slender, into an elephant). A matching unlined jacket, like a French workman's jacket, is £60.

Warehouse has a brace of classic drawstring pants — in charcoal viscose jersey for £35, or black polyamide (£45). Khaki cotton drawstring fatigues are £38. And at Warehouse, Andy Pandy's rebel*lious teenage offspring* can find acres of drawstring pants at pocket-money prices, of which the most striking are probably the cropped fatigues, £28, and the polyester-mix pants in pale grey, black or airforce blue, with toggle ties at ankle and waist.

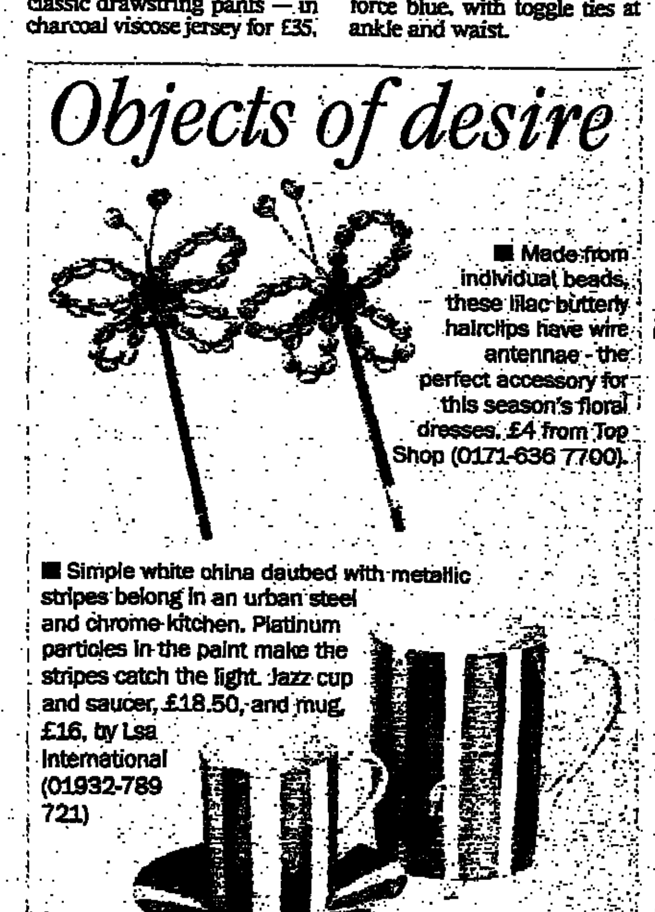


Strings attached: "How did I put up with unyielding denim waistbands for so long?"

HOT TIP

Origins No Offense is a new deodorant that doesn't leave a chalky residue on your clothes. It's not sticky, and because it is free of alcohol and propylene glycol there is no pore-clogging or irritation. The combination of science and natural oils helps to calm skin and control odour-causing bacteria in both men and women. £9.50 by Origins, available from Harrods (0171-730 1234).

Objects of desire



■ Made from individual beads, these lilac butterfly hairclips have wire antennae - the perfect accessory for this season's floral dresses. £4 from Top Shop (0171-636 7700).

■ Simple white china daubed with metallic stripes belong in an urban steel and chrome kitchen. Platinum particles in the paint make the stripes catch the light. Jazz cup and saucer, £18.50, and mug, £16, by Lsa International (01932-789 721)

Bring on the rivals, I'm fighting for a spoil



MAN ON TOP

JOE JOSEPH

Jack Straw, Robin Cook, Frank Dobson, Alastair Campbell — these are some of the truly inspiring names of our age, names that have the power to spur all of us to reassess our lives and to wonder if maybe it isn't time to emigrate.

But what is it that makes them so unsatisfying? It's their ersatz quality. They're not the Real McCoy. They are the political world's version of the newspaper spoiler.

Spoilers are a newspaper's way of stealing a rival's clothes when it fears its own wardrobe might look wanting: for example, this week, to tarnish *The Mirror*'s scoop serialisation of Andrew Morton's new book on Monica Lewinsky, its rivals have done nothing to discourage their readers from believing that it is *they* who have secured Lewinsky's story.

On Wednesday *The Sun*'s front page carried a picture of Lewinsky next to the promise: "We've got the FIRST interview." *The Mirror*, which began its serialisation only yesterday, has been so anxious that it has been running anti-spoiler spoilers of its own all week, with front covers suggesting that its inside pages contained extracts from Morton's book when, in fact, they contained only articles about the background to the book.

In a similar saga last week, *The Daily Telegraph* published extracts from Germaine Greer's sequel to *The Female Eunuch*, which revealed that after 30 years of campaigning for feminist ideals, Greer is, astonishingly, *still a woman*. But *Daily Mail* readers must have been baffled by the *Telegraph* crowing about its exclusive, because their own paper was telling them how "In the first of a compelling new series today we reveal the sexual forces that shaped one of the century's most extraordinary thinkers". What the *Daily Mail* was in fact publishing were extracts from an old, unauthorised biography of Greer by Christine Wallace.

But whereas newspaper spoilers are criticised outside Fleet Street by people who think that they tell you everything you need to know about the jackdaw morality of journalists, the human political spoiler is actually running the country.

The human political spoiler gets to sit at Tony Blair's Cabinet table. He's given a Whitehall ministry to run; civil servants who will take the blame when their boss should have read an important report but didn't; and flights on Concorde. When it comes to running spoilers, politicians are the experts.

New Labour, we can now see, was nothing more than a spoiler designed to imitate the Tories and thereby seduce voters into switching allegiance. Tony Blair has diligently stolen every idea the Tories had, a task obviously made easier by the fact that the Tories didn't have many. As far as the Thatcherite creed of "One of Us" goes, Blair is more royalist than the king.

Having bagged the last election, Blair continues to deploy spoiler tactics. Worried that a more electable Tory might unseat William Hague as Tory leader, Blair has activated a spoiling compaign by appointing Hague's likely rivals to run task forces, thus tainting them as new Labour sympathisers. Chris Patten has been co-opted to review the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Michael Heseltine is helping the Government to promote Anglo-Chinese trade. Lord Wakeham, the former Conservative leader in the Lords, is to supervise a Royal Commission into the future of the Upper House.

The spoiler that makes new Labour tingle is, of course, Kenneth Clarke (Blair: "Why isn't Ken in our Cabinet?" Campbell: "He's a Tory, but Hague says he'll kick him out if he backs pro-single currency rebels in this summer's Euro-elections." Blair: "Super! Then we can make him Deputy PM").

Most of new Labour's First XI are human political spoilers, too. Robin Cook successfully makes even emptier threats to despots in the world's troublespots than did his predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind. Jack Straw — *mimicking the Tories' Home Secretary Michael Howard* — is also a smart, often eloquent politician who has a knack of coming across as a complete plonker. At Health, Frank Dobson sets the world alight just as dimly as Stephen Dorrell did before him. At the Department of Trade, Blair has found a perfect spoiler for the unmemorable Ian Lang in the forgettable Stephen Byers.

Spoiling is everywhere. High street clothes shops do it by copying designer's frocks while they are still on the catwalks in Milan and Paris and getting them into the shops almost overnight. I had planned to write today about the euro. Then I learnt that a columnist on a rival newspaper was going to write about spoilers. So my journalistic instinct told me that it was professional duty to spoil his column about spoilers.

If, by some unfortunate chance, you should read another article in another newspaper today that shamelessly sets out to spoil my spoiler about spoilers, don't tell me. It'll spoil my whole day.

I have discovered a lifetime of betrayal by my husband of 32 years

Lynn Redgrave is in crisis. In an interview with Janie Lawrence she tells for the first time why she is divorcing her husband



PETER NICHOLLS

In crisis: "People will say hooray for Lynn, but there is a price to pay. You can have your life as you knew it destroyed"

We have been talking for 35 minutes before it becomes apparent that all is not well with Lynn Redgrave. Until this point she has given a bravura performance perfectly befitting one of our most accomplished actresses; poised, soignée, and recounting anecdotes with considerable brio.

I am the last in a series of journalists interviewing her about her new (and very fine) film, *Gods and Monsters*, for which she has been nominated for an Oscar. And if she doesn't win one for the film, she certainly deserves one for the performance she managed to maintain almost, but not quite, until the end of her gruelling publicity schedule on Tuesday afternoon.

The straw that breaks her is my innocent and well-intentioned remark that finally she appears to have it all — professional acclamation, and a marriage (to John Clark, the child star of *Just William*) which, in the flighty world of Hollywood, has gone on for ever: 32 years, to be precise.

"Yes, it's been a very long one," she replies, in measured tones distinctly lacking in enthusiasm. For a few minutes she continues to talk about her career before volunteering, in an apparent *non sequitur*, that she has been undergoing therapy since December.

"That would normally indicate someone in crisis," I say, puzzled. "As a matter of fact, I am in crisis," she replies. Her voice is steady but her fingers twiddle agitatedly with a napkin. "This has been a very difficult time. In many ways I'm having . . ." Her face crumples, and she abruptly dissolves into tears.

Even in distress she is dignified. She weeps quietly, silently accepting the tissue I have ferreted for in my bag, and continues for some minutes. Unsure what to to say, my immediate thought is that she must be gravely ill; certainly she looks as though she has lost some weight.

Her grief is painful to witness and it is several minutes more before she regains any semblance of composure. "I'm sorry," she gulps. "No, I'm not ill. As of Thanksgiving, I've discovered a lifetime of betrayal from my husband, and I'm divorcing him. You're the first person I've told. I suppose it's because I'm wobbly and tired.

"The first thing that's been revealed to me involves another child who has been in my house all this time, and who I never knew was my husband's child. And now my husband has just spoken to the *National Enquirer*."

She was expecting the story to break next week; instead, the news breaks the day after we meet. And what an extraordinary, and tawdry, tale of betrayal it is. Last November, her husband confessed to her that he had fathered the child of the woman who later married their son. Zachary, the eight-year-old boy Lynn had always thought of as her surrogate grandson, was in fact her husband's child.

He said he had had an affair with a woman called Nicolette, and that during the affair she had become pregnant by him. The affair ended and subsequently Nicolette fell in love with, and married, Lynn and John's own son, Ben, who, not knowing who Zachary's real father was, adopted him as his own.

"It was right beneath my nose for *eight years*," says Lynn, her voice hollow with the shock of it still. "I thought this child was my surrogate grandchild; that his own father was a s*** and never paid attention to him."

It is unlikely that any of this would have become public, were it not for the fact that last year Nicolette filed a restraining order against Clark, who she alleged was harassing her. By this time her marriage to Ben had broken up, and she was involved with a married plumber. Lynn says that her husband was forced finally to confess to her because of the alleged harassment. Nicolette, in an apparent attempt to stop him, was threatening to tell Lynn about Zachary. "He's harangued them in the most appalling way and she threatened to tell me if he didn't stop. So he told me, but then he carried on. Because he can't have her, he doesn't want anyone else to have her."

It was Thanksgiving, the traditional day in America for family unity, when her husband turned Lynn's own family inside out. "It's quite, quite horrifying," she says. "I'd just put the turkey in the oven. We had a houseguest, and John said he had something to tell me. We went into the garden and he told me about Zachary."

Her immediate reaction, she says, was to feel compassion for Zachary. She recounts the betrayal without anger or rancour; it is as if she is still in such a deep state of shock that she can scarcely believe the words she is uttering. "I'm not bitter. I'm a lot of things, but I don't have time for that. I've been in a terrible state of struggle, and gradually making moves towards taking control of the situation. And with each step I take, as hard as it is, I feel a little clearer."

Many times over the past three months, she has been driving and had to pull over because she simply couldn't see the road. "Quite honestly, I was unable to drive at all on the freeway for a month."

For a long time she was unable to eat, and has lost ten pounds in less than eight weeks. "I've eaten better because I'm away, but it's probably the first time I've eaten properly in three months."

> I had just put the turkey in the oven. We had a guest, and John said he had something to tell me. We went into the garden and he told me about Zachary

Her husband has stated that until she filed for divorce on Monday, he had been hoping they would be able to "patch things up". This seems a remarkable comment from a man who has revealed his story to America's most notorious (and high-paying) tabloid. Yet women have forgiven errant husbands, in the most extraordinary of circumstances, before; does Lynn share his hope of reconciliation?

"It's too soon for me to say. I can't forgive him and go back to him. There is no way we can be back together." It was her husband's decision to tell all to the *National Enquirer*, she says, that jolted her into filing for divorce. "He didn't dream that I would do it. But once he spoke out, I had to. I didn't want my action to be the result of an article. There's no wavering on my part." She adds, ominously: "This is only the tip of the iceberg. And how huge is this? The rest of it is horrifying."

She won't be drawn further as to what "the rest of it" is. On the basis of what we know so far, it hardly bears contemplating. And, inevitably, one of the most painful elements for her is having to wonder whether her whole married life has been a sham.

"Yes, that's what I have to work through. And to tell myself what I believe is true: that he has loved me. He's loved me very deeply, I think." She falters. "And yet. . ." Her eyes well up again.

One dreadful irony is that her husband is also her manager. Since her performance in *Shine* she has gone from strength to strength; she is marvellous in *Gods and Monsters* and with the Oscars only weeks away, he would, under normal circumstances, be accompanying her. Now she intends to go with her daughters. "The bitter sweetness is that he has been a great champion of my work, and long wanted me to succeed. All that's happened has been to rejoice in, to share in. But how can I? So I can only say: 'Well, I'm still here and I'll go on for my kids.'

"I suppose what I'm thinking is that the Greek gods who look over us from Mount Olympus are saying: 'Well, we've decided that you've worked very hard as an actor, you've paid your dues and you've lived a good life. People will say, hooray for Lynn, she's back, but there's a price to pay. And this is the price. You can have your life as you knew it destroyed.' "

Unsurprisingly, she has barely given her future any thought. "This has been a massive chunk of my life, so I have a long way to go before I can put this into perspective. I'm not afraid of being alone. I'm quite good at it. But then I have children and my daughter Kelly is expecting twins, so soon I'll have grandchildren. I've had very much of a wonderful life. Of course, my children have been very affected by all of this."

As for her attitude towards Zachary, she insists nothing will change. "He is the most wonderful child and I truly love him."

When we speak later on the phone, after the news story has broken, she says she is exhausted and keen to gather strength before she begins shooting a new film next week. "I think I am strong but I've been moved at how good my family have been. They've been fantastic. Until this, I've never confided in anyone apart from my husband for the whole of my married life."

She says she has categorically no intention of engaging in a public war of words with her husband, and states that she intends forwith to maintain a dignified silence. Yet rarely a day goes by when she is not, at some point, overwhelmed by emotion. Her voice trembles. "In many ways my marriage wasn't perfect, but I loved him deeply. My heart rose when I heard his footfall in the kitchen."

Copyright: Janie Lawrence

Why Britain will be in the money

We can only benefit from staying away from euroland

Whoever said that newspapers were remote from their readers? I was planning not to write about Europe again this week, but the deluge of e-mails and letters has persuaded me otherwise. It looks as if the *position of being pro-European but anti-EMU is one that very many of you share.*

So why do critics claim that it is self-contradictory? Colin Sharman, of KPMG, dismissed it as like being "half-pregnant" when New Europe, the organisation with which I am involved, was launched on Monday. Passionate EMU-philes love setting up a false dichotomy: you either have to go with the flow or leave the EU altogether. That's as silly as saying that you can't love football but hate Arsenal.

But at least Mr Sharman will vote "yes" out of real enthusiasm. More worrying are the *millions* who have grave doubts about joining the euro but fear there is no future for this country outside it. The "yes" campaign will play mercilessly on these fears. It will claim that we "cannot afford" to be "left behind".

So the onus is on opponents of EMU to boost people's confidence that Britain can thrive in the Union outside the eurozone. For we are not a pathetic little country that cannot survive without pooling *economic management* with the Germans and the French. Far from it.

Britain has the fifth largest economy in the world, it is one of only five permanent members of the UN Security Council and is a leading member of Nato and G7. None of these facts will change, in or out of EMU — except that, if we join, our G7 seat may go to a joint eurozone representative.

Would we lose inward investment if we stayed out? I very much doubt it: we may even gain it. Don't forget that we would remain in the single market. EMU-enthusiasts claim that the eurozone would rig the market against us. Not only would that be illegal, under the Treaty of Rome; it would also be wholly against the eurozone's interests, since we are their biggest trading partner and the balance of trade is in their favour.

Inward investors in Britain would have to hedge their currency exposure to the euro. But, offset against that tiny insurance premium would be the huge benefits of our labour flexibility, low tax and modest social costs, *not to mention our* language and reputation as a good place to live. A dynamic economy on the fringe of euroland could be a far more attractive site for investment than the often sclerotic and overtaxed countries within the zone. German companies are already moving their factories here. Deutsche Bank has just spent £300 million improving its international headquarters — in London, not Frankfurt.

Of course the pressures to raise our tax and social costs will come whether we join or not. But the chances of resisting them are greater if we remain outside. This is how it will happen. Endless propos*als for "harmonisation"* will come: each time (I hope) Britain will either veto or threaten its veto. The other Europeans will be livid and will compare Tony Blair to Margaret Thatcher.

They will suggest (they already have) that the veto be abolished for all but treaty changes. We will veto that suggestion. Deadlock will ensue; which will be broken by the proposal that the euro-11 harmonise whatever they like, as long as they don't expect the countries outside euroland to join in. Such flexibility is already in use in the EU: in the Schengen accord on open borders and in EMU itself.

Some euro-enthusiasts will, of course, complain that this will lead to a two-tier Europe, to which I reply, "Hurray!". That is exactly what we want: a chance for the people of each country to choose how much integration they are comfortable with. If I were Italian, I would be delighted for the EU to take over powers from my often fractious and unstable national governments. Being British, I am more dubious.

And if that leaves us outside "the heart of Europe", so what? Actually, we have never been there, and would not reach it even if we joined the euro. The heart of Europe is Germany and France and, for genuine historical, cultural and geographical reasons, it always will be. But what does *it matter? We can take advantage* of our hinge position between Europe and America.

Mary Ann Siegbart

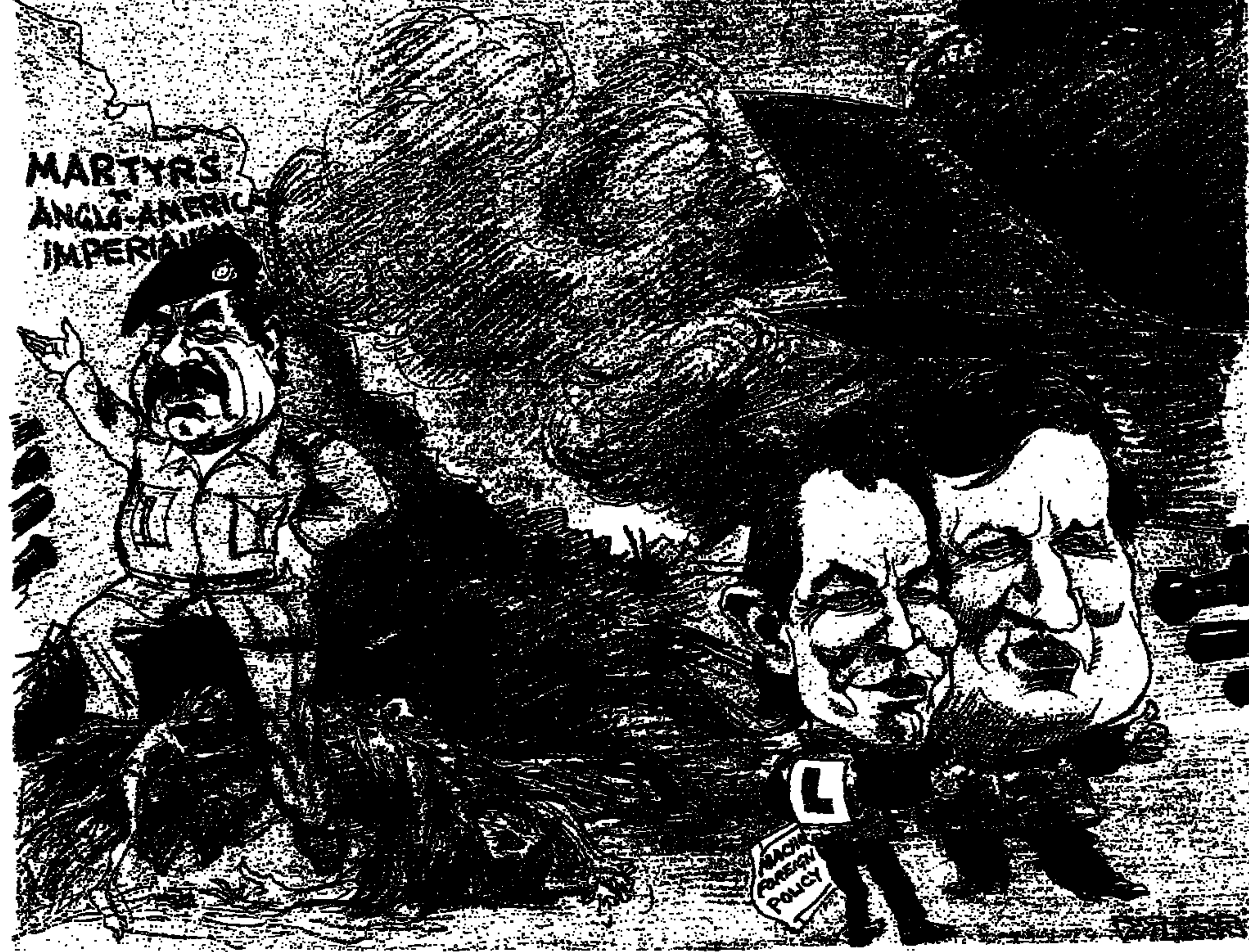
Would we be poorer outside? Far from it. For a start, we *would* retain the flexible labour markets that the euro-11 will be tempted to legislate away. That would make us even more competitive. And the City will be fine: it has always excelled in offshore business.

Most important, though, our chances of maximising our growth and minimising our unemployment depend on having interest rates that are tuned as closely as possible to the state of our economy at any one time. Just a point or two too high, and we dampen growth and lose jobs; too low and we suffer inflation, making our industry uncompetitive. The euro interest rate is likely to be a bit wrong for most of the countries most of the time, as *Germany is already finding.* Outside, we are more likely to have interest rates that are just right.

So I have a very sunny vision of Britain outside the euro. *It is not just* that I fear what we would lose inside: the chance to throw out the people who run our economy badly, the loss of levers over economic policy and much more. I look forward to what we would gain outside. Compared with the eurozone, Britain would be a dynamic, flexible, modern, open country with the ability to be quick on its feet and to make the most of its unique position linking *Europe and America.*

Inside the EU but outside EMU, we can have the best of both worlds. Why throw it away?

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.. TWO MORE PHOTO-OPPORTUNITIES.

It's dead wrong

We deplore the murderers of British tourists, but bomb Iraqis with impunity

This week, as we are all aware, a group of non-Europeans killed a group of Britons in a most brutal fashion. The story is still being *given sensational coverage in the* British media. Meanwhile a group of Britons have been killing non-Europeans in a most brutal fashion. That story has been ignored.

The killing of four Britons in Uganda, allegedly because of Brit*ain's support for the Tutsi regime in* Rwanda, was ghastly and tragic. Travellers to turbulent parts of the world take a risk. British visitors have been killed in Yemen, in Chechnya and in South-East Asia. None received two, three, four pages of gruesome coverage, day after day. Rwanda and its borderland is the site of Africa's Cambodia, a bloodbath not yet over. The genocide is ignored by British and American interventionists largely because blacks are killing blacks, and doing so far from cameras and aircraft carriers. It is hard not to conclude that the attention given to this tragedy was because blacks killed whites, and with gruesome weapons, thus conforming to the stereotype of "barbaric" Africa.

Now for the unimportant killing. Britain is currently conducting a bombing campaign against Iraq in support of the War of Clinton's Frustration. In December, British and American forces unleashed a *rain of terror on Baghdad with the* macho title of Desert Fox. This was a 72-hour burst of bombs and missiles, whose objectives were obscure. They were variously to "teach Saddam a lesson", to "disarm him from the air", to restore *weapons inspections and possibly to* yield a coup. Afterwards, Tony Blair boasted "We have put Saddam back firmly in his cage and secured it". Washington agreed. Its justification for Desert Fox was to achieve what United Nations inspectors had failed to achieve: to neutralise President Saddam Hussein's offensive weapons. This had been done.

In which case what was the point of continuing with sanctions after December? The answer is that there was a wider war aim. Within weeks *the bombing* resumed. *In the past* two months, more bombs have fallen on Iraq than during Desert Fox. A wider list of targets has included vaguely defined "command and control" sites. Even assuming a pilot knows what he is *aiming at, he cannot be sure of* hitting it. The Pentagon recently confirmed that only half of Desert Fox's 34 air defence targets were hit.

The UN staff in Baghdad are now auditing civilian casualties from some 80 recent Anglo-American raids. In the past two months, they *confirmed 17 dead, including* a woman and five children, in a housing estate in Basra, an outrage that would have stunned the media had it been an Iraqi bomb in a British housing estate. They have confirmed five women and five *children killed in Abu Khasib,* six civilians killed in Najaf, and five civilians killed in "southern Iraq" on February 15. There have been confirmations that hundreds more have been maimed and wounded and thousands driven from their homes.

Simon Jenkins

The means of their death is no less "barbaric" than was used in Uganda. Blast and fragmentation weapons are designed to attack the body with *shrapnel* pellets, like hundreds of stab wounds. They turn buildings either into infernos or into concrete missiles or into live-burial tombs. The deaths may not *look ghastly from a pilot's cockpit,* or from a targeting computer, or on the follow-up video, or even from Downing Street. But these weapons are the cruellest harbingers of death. The endgame of the most sophisticated technology is not a clean bullet in the head, but a medieval killing, the mutilating, shattering and crushing of the human body.

Of course ministers will say that civilian casualties are *mistakes*. I am sure some Hutu commander regards the *killing of British tourists* in Uganda as a mistake. His gangsters were out for Tutsis and hit the wrong camp, like a Tomahawk gone haywire. But British ministers are not crazed Hutus. They are acting within rules of *engagement that should pass muster* in a civilised democracy. At present they do not pass muster. This war has not even been put before the House of Commons. The reason is that it cannot be defended there, even before a Commons which these days has all the *independence of a Baghdad military parade.*

This week the poor Defence Secretary, George Robertson, was pushed forward to parrot the old Vietnam War phrases. The targets, he explained, were being "degraded" by British pilots "in self-defence" while flying "humanitarian missions" intended "to protect the Iraqi people". I had a flashback to General Westmoreland in Saigon, explaining why you must bomb a village to save it. Meanwhile Mr Robertson and his friends this week bombed the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline at Ceyhan, the conduit for oil-for-food that is the one shred of humanitarianism left in this affair. We let Iraq sell oil for children's food, then bomb the oil. To hell with the ethics. This is lunacy.

I am no pacifist. In my time I have *visited some horrific, and justified,* wars. But this campaign is indefensible. The "official" objective is quite different from December's Desert Fox, which was to punish the Iraqi President and destroy his chemical and biological weapons. This campaign *is allegedly* to protect the "no-fly" zones in the north and south of the country. But Saddam is not threatening them. He is merely using his, supposedly degraded, air force to "cheat and retreat": to entice the British and American planes *into bombing attacks that he hopes* will win him Arab and Eastern bloc support. His tactic appears to be working.

We are now told privately that the real reason for the war is different again. *It is to go on pounding Iraq with bombs, any old where, until* they do what bombers have never done before: bring about the downfall of a regime. This reason cannot be declared because it is illegal. For better or worse, overthrowing the leader of a sovereign state by force runs counter to both the UN Charter and international law. So what we have here is, in reality, a private war against Iraq that neither London nor Washington can avow. The *nearest parallels* are the operations by Presidents Nixon and *Reagan against hostile Govern*ments in Chile, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Panama. Mostly they used mercenaries. Britain is using the RAF.

In which case, cries a modern Palmerston, at least let it work. But *how? This* is a war without any plan, any tactic, any strategy or any foreseeable victory. It is mere bombing. Toppling *Saddam* Hussein would plainly require a ground assault. Britain has neither the will nor the guts for that. If Anglo-American forces invaded, against the opposition of half the world, they would have to fight and to stay. As in Bosnia and presumably in Kosovo, they would have to take responsibility for the aftermath. They would need to be proper policemen, rather the present hit-and-run vendetta squad.

The British Government lacks the courage of its convictions in this venture. It is pursuing low-cost, low-risk machismo. It is doing something relatively easy, but obscenely cruel, to avoid having to do something hard but sensible. This would be to admit that a decade of anti-Saddam strategy has failed and *sanctions should end. Bombing and* sanctions have merely entrenched him, and worsened the impoverishment of his people. British ministers keep saying they have no quarrel with the Iraqi people, only with Saddam. Not so. There are two quarrels. One is with *Saddam*, which he is winning. The other is with the Iraqi people, which they are losing. They are the ones Britain is bombing.

The present British Cabinet and Parliamentary Labour Party are largely composed of one-time anti-war protesters. A general once told me that whenever he saw ban-the-bombers on the march his instinct was to run for cover. He was right. But I never thought the marchers would end up dropping the bombs.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Loose cannon

AS MONICA LEWINSKY flies over here with her amorous tale, Major James Hewitt is heading over there to give a lecture tour about his friendship with the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

The major, a lovely rat really, says he is poised to follow Baroness Thatcher, John Major and the writer, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, where he could earn as much as £30,000 a chat. For as the great novelist says: "I gave a lecture in Palm Beach yesterday and half the questions were about Diana."

"If Archer can do it, anyone can," Hewitt claims. Talking about the Princess is "painful" but he admits that if he were to give a lecture series "it is an aspect of my life one would have to touch upon".

MADONNA'S affection for Britain extends to our floors: she has bought a £30,000 pure British carpet to line her daughter's nursery. The singer commissioned 160 square metres for young Lourdes from Heckmondwike Carpets in Yorkshire. A big bedroom, that, for a little girl.

■ DIANE ABBOTT claims wildly in the House, amid stifled chortles, that a hack had rung her to say the Foreign Office has "an arsenal of personal information" to use against her. Perhaps she meant me. I rang to relay a harmless little story about the time she played opposite Michael Portillo in a school play. She seemed to construe this as an FO plot to bring her down. You must get out more, Diane.

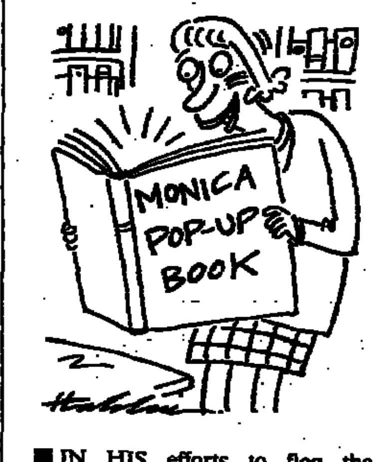



THE saucer-eyed Sophie Dahl, granddaughter of Roald (both above), is to venture to India to ease her writer's block. The orb of modelling tells me she is tired of London and dreams of escape to a mobile-free mecca. "I have been trying to write for ages," she says. "All my student friends do the travelling thing, but I missed out because I work so hard."

■ WILLIAM HAGUE has had an idea. Or three, to be fair. The Tory leader, I hear, has devised themes to push in a summer offensive.

The first: the British have not changed (they still hate social security fraud, paying tax, etc). The second: the Tories should be the "new Whigs". This requires the Tories "to tell a story of progress". As well as contradicting theme one, this seems to sit a little oddly with, well, Conservatism. Theme three (ah, that familiar glow): freedom. Back to the brain vat, William.

SHOOTING rather than the Liberal Democrat leadership is exercising the splendid Menzies Campbell. As the 45 potential candidates met, some expressed concern about disclosing the result on August 9. "Whatever is the problem?" piped up Ming. "It's better than August 12."



■ IN HIS efforts to flog the Millennium Dome, Lord Falconer of Thoroton is toying with a classic ploy favoured by property developers. The chubby one is poised to make the Greenwich erection a sexier buy by cleverly redefining it as a company rather than an asset. Thus, a purchaser would pay stamp duty of 0.5 per cent, incurred on share sales, rather than 3 per cent, which falls due on asset disposals. The only loser? You.

THE Queen's distaste for dreary repetition fills me with admiration. Sent a rare invitation from the Royal Opera House to see The Marriage of Figaro, *she politely sent her regrets because she had already seen it — remembering it as the one about the girl losing a pin.*

JASPER GERARD

'Asterix in euroland: featuring the Magister Primus, Tony Preposterus, and his noisy henchman Bill Cashnametapefix'

Now is the time for Asterix and Obelix to visit euroland. Those anarchix cartoon Gauls have deconstructed and taken the pix out of most other human pomposities in their struggles with J. Caesar and his original Treaty of Rome. With a Falstaffian majesty they refuse to take at all seriously all persons, powers and institutions that take themselves seriously. Participants in the euro debate are ripe for their attention.

So on his next quest Asterix should revisit his cousins in *Britannia Magna, where the* debate rages hottest. The very names lend themselves to his punning art, from Euroseptix, Chief Druid of the Oompah-pah Sept which worships the late deified Jimmy Aurifex, to Euromania, the high priestess of the confederation led from the rear by various bashful Latin lovers. These include the Magister Primus, Tony Preposterus of the cheesy curate's smile, and his Magister Secundus, Guru of Darkness, Petrus Mandelfilius.

There Asterix and Obelix will meet Bill Cashnametapefix Verivoluminos, whose oratory can empty the Senate of senators and a newspaper page of its readers faster than any other campaigner, except, perhaps, for Ted Campus (Heath) of the Europhiliax Clan. Winsome Teresa Gormania shall carry a spear, entirely for her own cursus honorum rather than any tribal *cause, and so will Anticlimax* Hastings, scribe for Conradox Nigerrimus. Another scribe for Nigerrimus, Christopher Liberer, will each week publish a horror story about some imaginary pettyfogging regulations emanating from the great law-making convention under the Brussels Sprout. And the following week somebody who knows anything about it will write to point out that he has got all his facts wrong, as per usual. Panacea Impedimenta will swing her handbag again at filthy froggy foreign fiends, as she once did beside her sister Boadicea. And Geriatrix Tebbitix, the grumpy old man of *heri*, will snarl and gibber such threats as shall be *the terrors of the earth, could* anyone still be bothered to listen to or understand him.

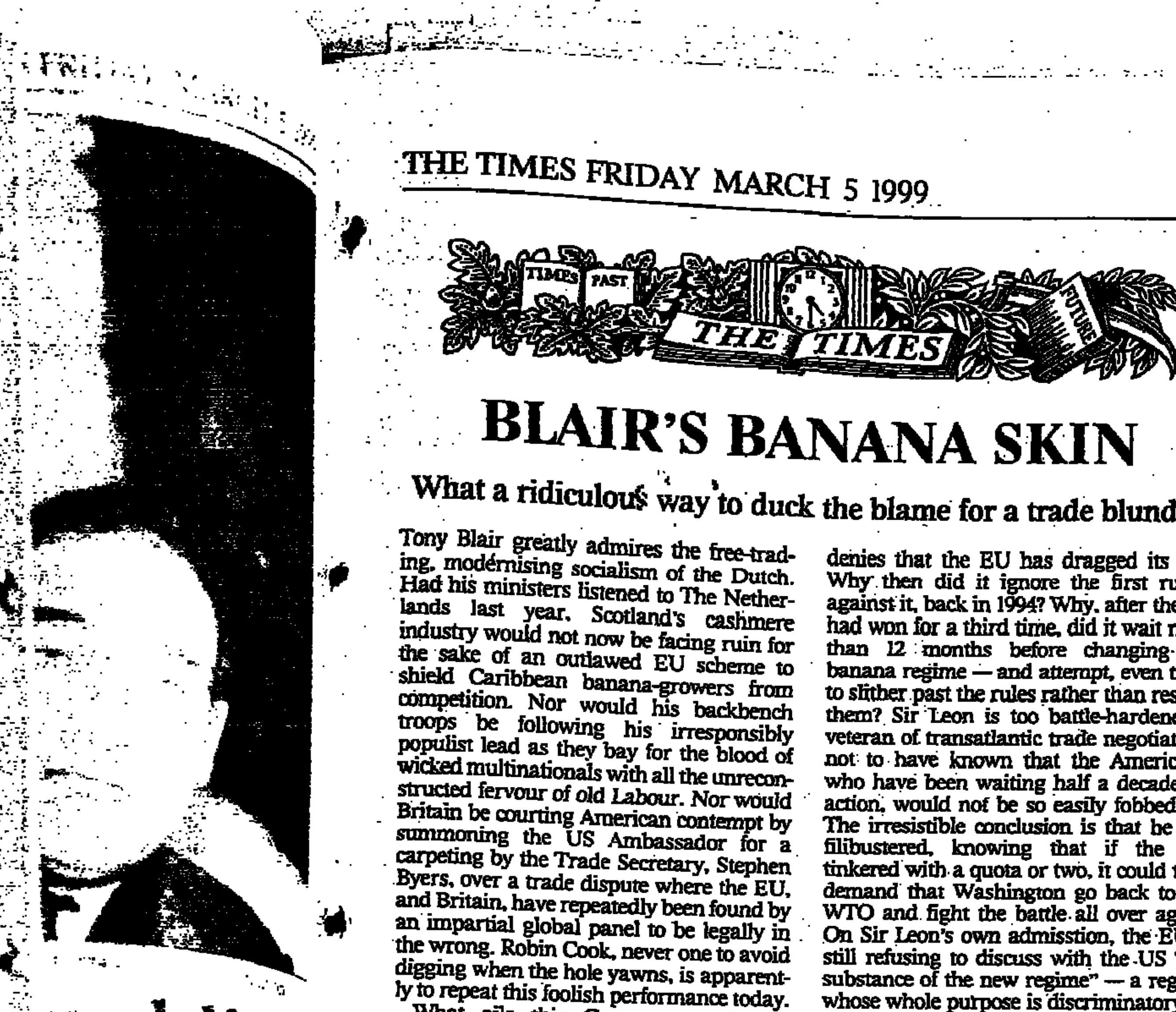
Philip Howard

As usual for Asterix, we shall have a pictorial pun, perhaps from Rubens's painting of Zeus visiting Danaë in a ticker-tape shower of eurobonds. And there must be a literary reference, possibly to Doctor Debens Owing, leader of the neweurope sect of opportunist kerns and galloglasses, "Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong,/ Is everything by starts, and nothing long."

There will be cacophonix pax of dogs of a snappy Russell nature, as is suitable in Britannica, all called Idéfix and Dogmatix. The tribal prophet will be Vitalstatistix Prolix Woostersaucy Moripollos. *His Sphinx* will produce, for a suitably large emolumentum in menhirs from Stonehenge, the answer anybody wants by rephrasing the question craftily. For example: "Do you want your feudal levies in euro menhirs decided by Attila de Lors in Frankfurt, or by Unionjax Sendervictorius and Appianglorius, your tribal chieftains at Westminster?" An economist, called Hypothetix Vaingloriius, will expound unintelligible runes about Endogenous Variable Growth Economix, and crowds of assorted voters and nutters, with such names as Histrionix, Tragicomix, Homeopathix and Sophistix will demonstrate, screeching: "Serva nostram libram. Save our pound."

To conform to the Asterix *consilium*, there will be some *Gadus* (cod) pedagogy, about how the pound sterling *has developed from older tribal* totems such as angels, guineas, florins and, as it happens, the first euro coinage, the libra. And the curious route by which the almighty dollar sprang out of the "large groats" coined by an obscure Bohemian Count in a dim Bohemian village in 1518, and crossed the Atlantic by way of James VI's sword dollars in Scotland, and Spanish pieces of eight. Chancellor Odiuscomparison will declare *in his Budget* that money like menhirs has only two properties: it should be flat so that it can be piled up. And it should be round, or oblong, so that it can circulate. There will be a Virgilian tag, remembered from Old Chalky. *Librae sacra fames*, perhaps. The absurd hunger for the pound.

As usual, the whole loony mess will have to be resolved by a magic potion, brewed at the Ripa of Anglia by Eddie Getafix. For *the British* euronutters the ingredients should be *bos os* (beef on the bone), boiled cabbage soaked in mint sauce, genetically modified chips with vinegar, weak tea and warm beer. And the Asterix book will be more illuminating and edifying than most of the propaganda put out by the fissiparous and endearing tribes of Ancient Britain.





BLAIR'S BANANA SKIN

What a ridiculous way to duck the blame for a trade blunder

Tony Blair greatly admires the free-trading, modernising socialism of the Dutch. Had his ministers listened to The Netherlands last year, Scotland's cashmere industry would not now be facing ruin for the sake of an outlawed EU scheme to shield Caribbean banana-growers from competition. Nor would his backbench troops be following his irresponsibly populist lead as they bay for the blood of wicked multinationals with all the unreconstructed fervour of old Labour. Nor would Britain be courting American contempt by summoning the US Ambassador for a carpeting by the Trade Secretary, Stephen Byers, over a trade dispute where the EU, and Britain, have repeatedly been found by an impartial global panel to be legally in the wrong. Robin Cook, never one to avoid digging when the hole yawns, is apparently to repeat this foolish performance today.

What ails this Government, that it should resort to so public a drubbing of its closest ally, with a démarche that, even when she was at her angriest over the US invasion of Grenada, Margaret Thatcher had more sense of decorum and proportion than to contemplate? Is it the Scottish elections that make Mr Blair, there on a visit, pour forth oaths about "our determination to make sure British jobs and Scottish jobs are protected"? Or does this posturing conceal private embarrassment that Britain, this great free-trading nation, shares with the European Commission much of the blame for this stupid crisis?

Britain chaired the EU council which last year, after the EU's banana regime had thrice been condemned by an impartial panel of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as a breach of global trade rules, decided to substitute one trade-distorting regime for banana imports with another. The Dutch, with Denmark, voted against, rightly arguing that the US had won its case and it was time for the EU to obey the agreed laws governing global trade.

Sir Leon Brittan's letter on this page denies that the EU has dragged its feet. Why then did it ignore the first ruling against it, back in 1994? Why, after the US had won for a third time, did it wait more than 12 months before changing the banana regime — and attempt, even then, to slither past the rules rather than respect them? Sir Leon is too battle-hardened a veteran of transatlantic trade negotiations not to have known that the Americans, who have been waiting half a decade for action, would not be so easily fobbed off. The irresistible conclusion is that he has filibustered, knowing that if the EU tinkered with a quota or two, it could then demand that Washington go back to the WTO and fight the battle all over again. On Sir Leon's own admission, the EU is still refusing to discuss with the US "the substance of the new regime" — a regime whose whole purpose is discriminatory.

The US has been criticised in the past on this page for using its muscle rather than playing by the rules: but in this case, after sitting for six years like patience on a monument, it is hardly surprising that it is no longer smiling on the grief the EU persists in causing the world trade system. Rules, unlike bananas, may not be bent, if global trade is to thrive. The Government has known since at least last November about America's March deadline for exacting compensation for losses suffered by America's banana distributors — time enough to ensure that the axe did not fall.

It is quite true that the US has no legal right to impose sanctions until yet another WTO panel has decided how much compensation is appropriate; but it has not, technically, done so: customs bonds must be posted, but will not be collected until the WTO reports. If Mr Blair objects to legalistic games, he should not have joined Brussels in playing them. Makers of cashmere, batteries or biscuits are right to be disgusted. But it is British ministers — not evil US multinationals — that they should blame for their undeserved plight.

SENATOR CLINTON

Republicans want the First Lady to fight in New York

While the United States and much of the wider world awaited the words of the Latest Lover, the First Lady has spent the past two days in New York dropping hints that she may seek election to the Senate. Hillary Clinton's speech there on Wednesday in which she said that "we cannot drop out of the political process" was deliberately teasing. If she stands, her opponent will almost certainly be Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican Mayor of New York City.

This would be a bitter and expensive battle. Mrs Clinton starts with strong poll ratings and undoubted celebrity. But she has never sought elective office before and is notoriously thin-skinned in her media dealings. Mr Giuliani has already raised her public support for a Palestinian state as an issue that might alienate Jewish voters. This may prove less of a difficulty if Binyamin Netanyahu loses the forthcoming Israeli election and is replaced by a politician willing to surrender more territory to Yassir Arafat. It is, however, an indication of what Mrs Clinton will face if she chooses to accept the Senate challenge.

Her biggest liability would be her status as an outsider. Born in Illinois, educated in Connecticut, resident of Arkansas, currently established in Washington, she has only slender connections with the Empire State. This may not matter much in Manhattan or even the rest of New York City where many voters are themselves recent immigrants. It takes more than a (Greenwich) village, however, to be elected across the whole of New York State. In cities such as Albany, Buffalo and Syracuse, Mrs Clinton's lack of local knowledge will matter. Mr Giuliani can be relied upon to exploit his advantage ruthlessly.

Some Democrats have argued that this disadvantage is exaggerated. They point out that Robert Kennedy, a citizen of Massachusetts, fought and won a New York Senate seat in the 1964 elections. The comparison is somewhat dubious. The Kennedy family were intimates with New York's financial community. Mr Kennedy was a former Attorney-General of the US and running in the aftermath of his brother's assassination (not a husband's acquittal) when elected. To paraphrase the then Senator Lloyd Bentsen's devastating rebuke to Dan Quayle in 1988, Mrs Clinton, you are no Bobby Kennedy.

She is, nonetheless, a formidable figure. A Clinton campaign in New York would attract enormous energy, interest, and money from all over America. It would almost overshadow the presidential election as a media spectacle. This is precisely what allies of Vice-President Al Gore are afraid of. They fear that key resources will be drawn away from his efforts to succeed Mr Clinton in the White House.

That concern is shared by Democrats in other states with Senate elections in 2000. They think that funds which would otherwise be directed to them might disappear in the drive to assist the First Lady. Victory in New York could be offset by defeat in states such as Nevada. The Republicans, by contrast, are rich enough to withstand several costly campaigns. Although she may beat them in New York, it is the Republicans who would like Mrs Clinton to declare for the Senate.

OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

Parliament opens its chambers to tourism

Roll up, roll up. Tickets for London's longest-running show. Enter the Chambers, if you dare. The Palace of Westminster is throwing open its doors. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. This tour is not for the faint-hearted. Prepare yourself for the grey-suited ghouls of London's most authentic Chambers of Horrors. Don't be deceived by Betty Boothroyd's matronly manner, a harpie-tongued Speaker presides here. Listen to the baying of political debate. Follow me ladies and gentlemen, to the eyries and crannies where the cameras never probe. Pry into those places where plots have been perpetrated.

Here politicians have been skewered, stabbed and grilled. Party leaders have lost face. Cromwell's head, exhumed after the restoration of Charles II, glared down on this hall for 20 years. And Spencer Perceval met his end, near here in Pugin's magnificent lobby. He was the only Prime Minister ever to be assassinated in deed not in word.

Now we are standing in the Commons chamber. Note the red lines: two sword-lengths apart — just far enough to separate fractious Members. But still, they failed to stop MPs from exchanging more than verbal blows. Emmanuel Shinwell once hit a Tory here so hard that the man's ears rang for the rest of his life. He may have been among the many who resorted to drink to quell their nerves. Even Disraeli quaffed brandy and water. Gladstone preferred sherry and egg. But more sober Members may resort to snuff, provided there in a box behind the Speaker's Chair.

Here we are at the scene of many an ill-mannered display. Two Members "did both come drunk the other day into the House, and did both speak for half an hour" wrote Samuel Pepys. And on this spot Michael Heseltine swung the Mace, mane blowing in the political tempest.

But the most heinous crimes are reserved for elsewhere, out of the public gaze. Stay close together now and follow me. There are five kilometres of corridor in which to connive. Let us begin here, behind the Speaker's Chair, where members sidle for secret words and juniors are whipped into party line.

Moving on swiftly we reach Plods' Bar. In watering holes like these careers have sunk while rebellions bubbled. But come deeper down into the bowels of the building to witness the scene of the most secret assignations. Here in the rifle gallery, MPs lead their researchers on. But when their investigations surface again, the revelation may lead to the end of many a career.

And now we have reached the souvenir shop. Humbugs aplenty, and these are not the only mugs in the House of Commons. Once you could only buy politicians in Parliament. Now there are more tacky trinkets of the tourist trade. Anyone fancy an embossed brown envelope?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

US 'flying in face' of banana ruling

From Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission

Sir, You are quite wrong to blame EU "footdragging" for our dispute with the US over banana imports (leading article, March 4).

A number of EU member states, especially Britain, have for many years favoured giving preferential access to Caribbean and African bananas to the EU market. Some of those Caribbean economies depend on bananas for up to 25 per cent of their income. Member states approved an amended banana regime last June, maintaining longstanding preferential access for African and Caribbean bananas, but responding to a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling which had condemned some aspects of our earlier regime.

The US does not like the new regime. They have every right to challenge it again and achieve a final verdict in the WTO. But they have chosen not to do so. Instead, they have unilaterally determined that the new regime is not in compliance with international rules — something which is explicitly forbidden under their WTO obligations.

What the US announced yesterday is not, contrary to their claims, a suspension of sanctions action. It is an illegal measure designed to have immediate negative effects on European exports. The American Government's briefing notes for use with the press confirm this. They explicitly state that "we retaliated by effectively stopping trade as of March 3".

Their claim that they are obliged to act now in order to preserve their WTO rights is unfounded. It was expressly refuted by the WTO arbitrators on March 2, as was the figure for damages the Americans are claiming.

The US is flying in the face of the WTO, an organisation which the EU and the US worked hard to establish and from which we both benefit. The US has taken and won more dispute settlement panels than any other nation. But now they are resorting to the sort of unilateralism which we have been struggling for years to resist.

As for the Commission's role, we have been seeking a settlement and have been ready to address with the Americans the substance of the regime, but not under the duress of threatened unilateral action. Some weeks ago I recommended to EU member states that we should have discussions with the Americans. Many were in favour. Others, including the United Kingdom, were reluctant to agree, although I am happy to note that the British position has since developed and talks have been taking place.

I shall continue to work for a settlement, as I have worked with some success to settle other disputes caused by sanctions-happy American policy.

Yours etc,
LEON BRITTAN,
Vice-President,
European Commission,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.
March 4.

Breastfeeding problems

From Mrs Alison Watts

Sir, I was sad to read of the traumatic experience of the baby Jessica and her parents in "Breast is not always best" (Weekend, February 27). Beatrix Clark has an understandably negative view of breastfeeding. In this instance it seems that breastfeeding was not properly established, but normally a woman's midwife would pick up any early signs of a problem and help to put things right.

Formula feeding, not breastfeeding, is regarded as normal in the UK and this culture is absorbed from childhood onwards. The National Childbirth Trust campaigns to help overcome the obstacles women experience and raise awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding.

While our objective is a breastfeeding-friendly culture, our counsellors are committed to meeting parents' individual needs, which include supporting mothers who are switching from the breast to a bottle.

Yours sincerely,
ALISON WATTS (Chair, Breastfeeding Promotion Group),
The National Childbirth Trust,
Alexandra House,
Oldham Terrace, Acton, W3 6NH.
March 4.

What a pane

From Mrs Leonie J. Hill

Sir, As a Southwark Council taxpayer, I am mightily interested in who will foot the window-cleaning bills incurred by Sir Norman Foster's ten-storey "glass egg" planned for the South Bank (report and picture, February 26).

Yours faithfully,
LEONIE J. HILL,
6 Hampton Court,
King & Queen Wharf,
Rotherhithe Street, SE16 1SU.
February 26.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

State responsibility towards caring for the elderly

From the Chair of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly

Sir, Your leading article, "Care free" (March 2) starts from a fundamental misconception of this commission's findings. These are not based on "old Labour instincts to trust the State". Rather we set out what we believe is the most cost-effective solution for the nation as a whole of making provision for people who need care.

We set out a new form of partnership between State and individual — one that has a cost simply because the current system places too much of a burden on the individual who is in need of care. It introduces an amount of risk-sharing which is currently lacking.

We acknowledge the uncertainty of future governments' intentions — that is why we suggest setting up a National Care Commission.

Your conclusion that the private sector — presumably insurance — should take the burden has been extensively addressed in our report. We point out how insurance will not deliver the goods. This is not just a theoretical position — all we have to do is to look at where it has been extensively market tested — in the United States. There, despite huge state subsidies, policies simply do not sell.

However, with the new form of partnership that the commission proposes, the industry will be able to design affordable products to cover the non-personal care for which the individual is responsible.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART SUTHERLAND,
Chair, Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly,
Hannibal House, 5th Floor,
Elephant & Castle, SE1 6TE.
March 2.

From the Group Director of Life and Pensions at Norwich Union

Sir, The royal commission's report on long-term care makes a number of extremely valuable recommendations. On funding, however, it is less practical.

The funding proposals must be judged in the light of political realities. The thrust of government policy is to refocus welfare spending on those in greatest need. The commission proposals would have a very different outcome.

They would increase government spending — all seem to be agreed on the need for this — but would direct this new money to people who can, and already do, pay for their own care.

This will still leave many people with moderate incomes facing large care bills. Two commission members, as you report, recognise this problem and one seeks to solve it through the development of partnership schemes.

Norwich Union proposed one such scheme, which could cut insurance costs by up to 25 per cent. It would establish a clear demarcation of individual and state responsibilities for long-term care. People with the resources to pay for their care would be obliged to do so for four years — after which the State would take on the responsibility up to an agreed maximum. Those who cannot realistically afford to pay would continue to be cared for through state funding.

Partnership schemes are a realistic and affordable proposal and would not require the development of compulsory insurance — which the Government would be unlikely to accept.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP G. SCOTT,
Group Director, Life and Pensions,
Norwich Union,
PO Box 48, 25-27 Surrey Street,
Norwich NR1 3TA.
March 3.

From Mr Peter Orr

Sir, Your leader comments sensibly and with restraint on the recommendations by the royal commission, but distances itself from the plight of those who, near to or past retirement age, cannot hope "to save or insure for the future".

The present arrangements for care of the elderly and, in particular, those suffering from Alzheimer's disease can, in certain cases, prove harsh and punitive. Urgently needed now is some sort of transitional scheme to care for people who today can no longer care for themselves. Those enjoying youth and middle age can read the warning signs and take appropriate action.

It would require only gentle tweaking of fiscal policy to accommodate the royal commission's recommendations on an *ad hoc* basis, and provide immediate assistance for those now too old, too feeble, too helpless to fend for themselves. This, surely, is a debt of honour which should be discharged without hesitation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ORR,
17 Berkley Drive,
Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 7LX.
March 2.

From Mrs Valerie Townsend

Sir, It is incorrect to say (report, February 27) that the State meets the full cost of elderly care if savings fall below £10,000.

Local county councils decide an "expect to pay" level which bears little relation to the real cost of quality care. In this county the level is currently £241 per week (£1.43 per hour) for the total physical and social residential care of a very dependent person. Relatives makes up the shortfall in fees to enable the person to enter the home of their choice.

Yours sincerely,
V. TOWNSEND
(Proprietor),
Ashdown House Residential Home for the Elderly,
Ashworth Street, Daventry,
Northamptonshire NN11 4AR.
March 1.

From Mrs Lillian Taylor

Sir, Just to put into perspective the Government's apparent reluctance to adopt the royal commission's proposals at an annual cost of £1.2 billion, this is roughly equivalent to half the pre-tax profits of NatWest Bank, announced last week (report, Business, February 25).

Yours faithfully,
LILLIAN TAYLOR,
Ashdown, St Lawrence Avenue,
Bidborough, Kent TN4 0XA.
March 2.

Advice for travellers

From Mrs Diana Lamplugh, Director of The Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Sir, In the light of recent events in Uganda (reports and leading article, March 3), may I remind everyone that, whilst the Government and travel organisations have a duty to act on information they are given regarding potential dangers in foreign destinations, individual travellers should also be prepared to take responsibility for their own safety. There are many sources of information which a traveller can consult before choosing a destination.

We worked with Oxford Brookes University last year to launch a safe travel website (*www.brookes.ac.uk/worldwise*), which gives updates every 48 hours on over 250 countries. These updates come directly from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In addition, we would like to see more done by travel companies to help ensure that travellers are safe. We applaud, for example, *World wise: a passport to safer travel*, published by Thomas Cook, and are calling for more travel operators to put some of their profits back into safety initiatives for travellers.

Yours sincerely,
DIANA LAMPLUGH,
Director,
The Suzy Lamplugh Trust,
14 East Sheen Avenue, SW14 8AS.
March 3.

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, No one can fail to be moved by the appalling and tragic loss of lives in Uganda.

Your report (March 3) suggested that only three people in the Foreign Office work on our travel advice. In fact, our advice originates in our 221 missions abroad, drawing on the knowledge and experience of hundreds of staff. This is co-ordinated and issued by a small professional group in London, but literally hundreds of individuals contribute to it from first-hand knowledge.

I had hoped I had made this clear at the seminar we held last week — the first of its kind — on how to improve our travel advice. We received many useful suggestions: and we shall hope to keep in touch with all those who can helpfully contribute to improving the speed and accuracy with which our advice is disseminated.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
Whitehall, SW1A 2AH.
March 3.

From Mr Michael Ackroyd

Sir, As a European well used to travelling in Egypt, I take great exception to Edward Welsh's generalisation (feature, "How safe is your holiday", March 3) about the "vast, impoverished peasantry" and their "fanaticism". It behoves all travellers to whatever destination to take sensible precautions and to respect local customs. Foreign Office advice is readily available.

Far from channelling its frustrations against tourists, this same vast peasantry, among whom I am fortunate enough to have several close friends, are among the most hospitable people on the planet.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ACKROYD,
PO Box 12950, London W6 8GY.
mra@dial.pipex.com
March 3.

News at Ten

From Sir David Nicholas

Sir, *News at Ten* on Independent Television comes to an end this Friday. When the Independent Television Commission decided last November to kill off *News at Ten*, it was reported that the commission members' vote was seven to three. The ITC did not disclose which way individual members voted.

Former ITN colleagues and I have since learned that one of the key votes to end *News at Ten* was cast by Sir Michael Checkland, former Director-General of the BBC and now a member of the commission. No one would question his integrity, but over the decades *News at Ten* was a troublesome competitor to BBC News. I wonder whether Sir Michael, as former Editor-in-Chief of BBC journalism, felt he had a conflict of interest in the issue?

It would seem to me to be like giving Rommel a say in disbanding the Eighth Army.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NICHOLAS
(Editor, ITN, 1977-89;
Chairman, 1989-91),
Lodge Stables,
2F Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3 0LW.
March 2.

Millennium Moment

From Mrs H. W. T. Willoughby

Sir, The reported statement by a spokesman for the new Millennium Experience Company that "Church leaders would be welcome guests" at the midnight millennium celebration in the Dome (report, February 25; see also letter, March 4) — and in the context of your report these "guests" would seem to be the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster — must surely rank as the most patronising statement of all time.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY WILLOUGHBY,
2 The Grange, Mere,
Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DZ.

GM foods

From Dr Bernard Dixon

Sir, The most bizarre aspect of the hysterical climate now surrounding genetically manipulated foods (letters, February 17, 19 and 23) is the denigration of scientists, coupled with the *apparently fashionable belief* that food was safe until science and technology rendered it "unnatural" and dangerous.

It was not scientists, but government ministers, who gave invalid public assurance over BSE. What scientists *did* do was to investigate and pinpoint the cause of this condition and to discover its link with human variant BSE.

More broadly, it is scientists and technologists (rather than ministers, environmental campaigners or journalists) who have provided the considerable portfolio of methods now used to combat food- and water-borne disease.

Without scientific research we would simply not have known about *Salmonella, Campylobacter, Escherichia coli* 0157 and the many other micro-organisms responsible for deadly infections such as botulism, dysentery and cholera. Without science, we would not have been able to develop pasteurisation, sterilisation, water purification and other techniques which are vital to combat these diseases. Nor could we have produced the antibiotics used to cure life-threatening cases of typhoid fever and similar infections.

Our defences against food- and water-borne disease are by no means perfect. But we should remember that "nature", which is suddenly popular with well-nourished Westerners, is characterised not by wholesome, pristine purity, but by plagues and pestilences, many of them associated with food and water. We are privileged that science has helped to deliver us from much of that.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD DIXON,
130 Cornwall Road,
Ruislip Manor, Middlesex HA4 6AW.
March 1.

From Ms Sue Pheasey

Sir, If Tony Blair really is in favour of genetically modified food, there is just one person he needs to convince of its safety — Delia Smith.

Yours faithfully,
SUE PHEASEY,
30 Broad Oaks Road,
Solihull, Warwickshire B91 1JB.
March 2.

Where now brown cow?

From Professor Michael J. Stock

Sir, Robin Otter (letter, March 3) claims that the hide of Edward Jenner's red-brown Gloucester cow can be seen in the Gloucester Folk Museum. However, we have a red-brown cow's hide on display in our medical school library that is said to be "Blossom", the cow from which the milkmaid Sarah Nelmes contracted cowpox.

St George's is very proud of its association with Dr Jenner: we have a Jenner Society, a Jenner Wing and his bust sits in our foyer — so the possibility that Blossom was not his cow is very disconcerting. Perhaps he had more than one?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. STOCK,
Department of Physiology,
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Tooting SW17 0RE.
stockm@sghms.ac.uk
March 4.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 4: The Queen this morning visited The Young Vic Theatre, London SE1, and met teachers and children from the Sacred Heart School, Southwark attending a theatre workshop.

The Queen then visited the Lyceum Theatre, London WC2, and met theatre staff and members of the cast of *Oklahoma!*

The Queen subsequently visited the Almeida Theatre and rehearsal rooms, London N1, and met members of the casts of *Speer* and *Plenty*.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Angels & Bermans, theatre costumiers, London NW1.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended a lunch hosted by The Society of London Theatre at The Ivy Restaurant, London WC1.

Her Majesty, Patron, this afternoon visited the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London WC1.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Royal National Theatre, London SE1, to see the technical refurbishment of the Cottesloe Theatre.

His Royal Highness subsequently visited the Adelphi Theatre, London WC2, and met members of the cast of *Chicago*.

The Duke of Edinburgh later visited the Royal Court Youth theatre at the Duke of York's Theatre, London WC2.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, London W1.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a performance of the Royal National Theatre's production of *Oklahoma!* at the Lyceum Theatre, London WC2.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 4: The Prince of Wales today visited Clwyd where he was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Clwyd, Sir William Gladstone.

His Royal Highness this morning visited Brickfields Pond, Rhyl, to see the community conservation project and meet some Prince's Trust Volunteers.

The Prince of Wales later visited Cefndy Enterprise's Healthcare in Rhyl.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Penbedir Farm, near Mold, where he toured the farm and held a discussion with a group of upland farmers.

The Prince of Wales then visited Ruthin Gaol, a historic building which is to be improved and enhanced.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 4: The Duke of York this morning opened the British Council Fashion Design Workshop at Ho Chi Minh University College of Fine Arts.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness visited the Wellcome Trust Project and Ho Chi Minh Hospital for Tropical Diseases.

Later The Duke of York visited the World Health Organisation's Conference on "*Rolling Back Malaria*".

This afternoon His Royal Highness arrived in Hanoi.

Later, The Duke of York attended an opening ceremony for the Hilton Hanoi Opera Hotel.

This evening His Royal Highness attended a reception for Chevening Scholarship students, MOD English language students and alumni of British Universities at the Hilton Hotel.

Later, The Duke of York attended a dinner for the Commonwealth Ambassadors at the Press Club.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 4: The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this morning attended a Council Meeting at Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane, Cheapside, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, The Basic Skills Agency, this evening attended a Residential Meeting Reception at Cheltenham Park Hotel, Cirencester Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Northern General Hospital, The Devonshire Quarter, Sheffield University and Sheffield Hallam University, from 9.45am.

Adrian Ryan

A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life and work of Adrian Ryan, painter, will be held on March 30 at 2.30pm, at St James's, Piccadilly.

Lord Dunsany

A memorial service for Randal Plunkett, 19th Baron Dunsany, will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday, March 21, 1999, at 3.15 pm.

Blundell's School

The Hon Francis Maude, MP, officially opened the new Library and IT Centre and delivered the Inaugural Blundell's Lecture at Blundell's School yesterday.

Baron Trotman

The life barony conferred upon Sir Alexander James Trotman has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Trotman, of Osmotherley in the County of North Yorkshire.

Birthdays today

The Hon David Astor, CH, 87; Lady Elizabeth Basset, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 91; the Right Rev Thomas Butler, Bishop of Southwark, 59; Admiral Sir Simon Cassels, 71; the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, KT, 72; Earl Grey, 60; Mr Anthony Hedges, composer, 68; Archbishop Bruno Heim, former Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 88; Mr R.A.E. Herbert, former President, Royal Horticultural Society, 65; Mr Richard Hickox, conductor, 51; Mrs Ann Longley, former Head Mistress, Roedean School, 57; Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, KT, 73; Miss Elspeth March, actress, 88; Sir Derek Mitchell, former civil servant, 77; Lord Norton of Louth, 48; Miss Elaine Paige, singer, 51; Sir Jack Rumbold, former president, Industrial Tribunals, 79; Mr Ron Sandler, chief executive, Lloyd's of London, 47; Mr Barry Tuckwell, horn soloist and conductor, 68; Mr Des Wilson, former co-chairman, Campaign for Freedom of Information, 58.

Paviors' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Paviors' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Peter D.M. Gell; Upper Warden, Mr John E. Cruse; Renter Warden, Mr Keith C. White.

Funeral service

Sir Anthony Nutting
The funeral service for Sir Anthony Nutting was held yesterday at Holy Trinity, Brompton. The Rev Alistair Millar officiated and Mr Robin Beare gave an address. Among those present were:

Margarita Lady Nutting (widow), Sir John Nutting, QC, and Lady Nutting and Mr and Mrs David Nutting (sons and daughters-in-law), Mrs Zara Nutting (daughter), Mr James Nutting, Miss Victoria Nutting, Miss Belinda Nutting, Miss Serena Nutting, Miss Alexandra Nutting and Mrs Katya Follett (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs John Paul Rathbone (stepson and stepdaughter-in-law), Mr Michael Rathbone (stepson), the Hon Nicholas and Mrs Beatty and Lady Miranda Stewart (step grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Otto de Cordoba (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs Ronald Nutting, Miss Samantha Cope, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Nutting, Mrs Oliver Brooke, Sir Nigel Strutt and other members of the family and friends.

Service dinner

HMS Victory
Captain Sir Donald Gosling, RNR, was the guest of honour at a dinner given by senior officers of the Royal Navy last night in *HMS Victory* in recognition of his service in the Royal Naval Reserve Air branch and for his support of Naval charities. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, First Sea Lord, was the principal host and Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord, presided. Among others present were:

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, Admiral Sir Hugo White, Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, Admiral Sir Michael Layard and Admiral Nigel Essenhigh.

Dinners

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at the annual civic reception and dinner held last night at the Landmark London. Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives of the Churches, the Judiciary, HM Forces, the emergency services, the arts, commerce, voluntary and charitable organisations, Greater London Mayors and other friends of Westminster were present.

Shipwrights' Company
The Earl of Inchcape, Prime Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, presented certificates to sea cadets from the London area taking up berths in *TS Royalist*, and afterwards presided at a dinner held at Ironmongers' Hall. Rear-Admiral Patrick Rowe, Deputy Master of Trinity House, was the principal speaker. Among others present were:

The Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, the Master of the Founders' Company, the Master of the Company of Master Mariners, the President of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, the Chairman of Lloyd's Register of Shipping and the Chairman of the Baltic Exchange.

Holborn Law Society
The President of the Holborn Law Society, accompanied by Mrs Morgan, presided at the annual dinner held last night in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn. Among those present were:

The Master of the Rolls and Lady Woolf, the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, the Chairman of the Bar, the President of the Law Society and Mrs Matthews, Mr Fenton Bresler, the past Dean of the Amsterdam Bar and Mrs Hamming and the presidents of local Law Societies and their ladies.

The Institution of Chemical Engineers
The Institution of Chemical Engineers' Annual Dinner was held last night at The Savoy. The President, Mr G.A. Campbell, welcomed as principal guest speaker Sir Clive Thompson, President of the CBI.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society.

PETER JORDAN



Maria Nicholls, 19, from Downham Market, Norfolk, who yesterday became one of the first two female musicians to join the band of the Household Cavalry. After an 18-week course in basic horsemanship she and other recruits went to Hyde Park Barracks, London, to take part in the Kit Ride Pass Off — the graduation ceremony which shows their ability to control their horses while wearing ceremonial uniform

Luncheon

City & Guilds
Mr Paul Wates, Chairman of the Council, and Honorary Officers of the City and Guilds of London Institute, were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at Clothworkers' Hall before the annual meeting. The Hon Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of HM Prisons, was the guest speaker. Mr Wates presented awards of Fellowship and City & Guilds Gold Medals for Excellence to the following:

Fellowship (FCGI): Dr Arthur W Brace, Mr Mark F Grimwade, Professor David N Dilks (*in absentia*), Professor Geoffrey F Hewitt, Dr B P Mansourian, Professor John H Sowray, Professor Felix J Weinberg.
Gold Medallists: Mr Peter E Greenfield, MCGI, Mrs Christine A Howard, MCGI, Mr Simon M Jarrett, ACGI. The Master and Clerk of the Clothworkers' Company and the Vice-President of City & Guilds were among those present.

Meeting

Three Faiths Forum
The Speaker presented Grand Rabbin Rene Samuel Sirat of Paris with the ICCJ Interfaith Gold Medallion at a meeting of the Three Faiths Forum held yesterday at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Mr Ivor Caplin, MP. Sir Sigmund Sternberg presided.

Inns of Court School of Law

1998-99 Bar Vocational Course early resits
Pass List (in alphabetical order):

Very competent
Blackett-Ord, B J (L); Carnochan, I W (M); Grant, D E (I); Housley, W J (L); Pledge, E L (G); Robertson, V (I); Saunders, M E (L); Thompson, R J (L); Walton, R J (L).

Competent
Abboud W (I); Adamson, B M (I); Ainsworth, N J (M); Allen, N N (G); Bastable, G R (I); Beck, L J (M); Begum, J (G); Bhachu, S (L); Blythin, D A (L); Booth, H E (M); Brewer, M L (I); Burgess, C J (G); Burkinshaw, A W (L); Bury, A C (L); Cairns, S T (G); Chaudhry, R (G); Choo, J Y (L); Chowdhury, A R (L); Christou, C (M); Corrish, J B (L); Craig, R J (L); Daniels, L A (I); Danvers, J (L); De Silva, S N (G); Dear, I L (L); Dear, J E (L); Deelen, P B (M); Dulay, R (I); Eaton, G D (G); Edwards, N D (L); Espindola, M (G); Gibbons, M (L); Green, D A (L); Green, G A (I); Grey, T J (I); Harwick, E (L); Harwood, L J (L); Hawkins, Q A (L); Holubowicz, R P (I); Howes, P A (L); Hugh-Jones, R L (L); Hughes, O (I); James, R I (L); Keter, V (M); Khan, T (L); Kumarasinghe, C (G); Lefrancois, L (M); Lloren, M A (L); Louis, A H (I); Loy, F (L); Mahalingam, J (G); Marapana, N S (L); McCarthy, J (G); McDougall, J (I); McDowell, D A (M); Molloy, K (M); Mount, H F (M); Newport, M A (M); Ng, J P (L); Palar, S (L); Pascoe, S (G); Percival, J F (M); Pershad, R (L); Peters, S L (G); Pilgrim, L P (M); Pollard, C A (I); Porter, R W (I); Pritchard, S F (M); Rajendra, R (L); Rashid, H (L); Rathour, L V (L); Rubin Mohideen, R (M); Saul, A M (L); Sayed, R (I); Scothern, P (G); Seepersad, M R (I); Selvanayagam, R (L); Sinha, A (M); Skittrell, E A (M); Smith, M (M); Spencer, G C (G); Stevenson, S J (L); Sullivan, D R (I); Sunderji, F N (L); Thomas, A (G); Torrens, B I (L); Ullah, M (M); Walls, K A (G); Wong, K A (L); Woodford, C J (G).

Legal appointment

Mr Emrys Roberts to be a member of the Council on Tribunals for three years from February 1.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr I.D.J Arthur and Miss C.A. Reid
The engagement is announced between Iain, son of Mr and Mrs Dave Arthur, of East Horsley, Surrey, and Caroline, younger daughter of the late Mr Michael Reid and of Mrs Malcolm Reynell, of Bransgore, Dorset.

Mr C.P. Brown and Miss S.L. Birch
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr Clive Brown, of Epsom, Surrey, and Mrs Christine Thom, of Dorking, Surrey, and Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Birch, of Hampstead, London.

Mr M. Dennison and Miss G.L. Robertson
The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Dennison, of Ashbrook, Sunderland, and Grainne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gregor Robertson, of Nantglyn, Denbighshire.

Mr E.R. Donald and Miss K.L. Wickens
The engagement is announced between Edward, youngest son of Mr Robin and the Hon Mrs Donald, of Bathampton, Bath, and Kirstie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Wickens, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr J. Dorman and Miss S. Waterstone
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Seamus Dorman, and Sylvie, daughter of Mr Timothy Waterstone and Mrs Charles Laws.

Mr O.R. Good and Miss A.M. Allinson
The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs Dudley J. Good, of Stubbings, Maidenhead, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Allinson, of Bramhope, Leeds.

Mr J.P. Grundy and Miss L.C.N. Cox
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Grundy, of Standish, Lancashire, and Lisa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Neill Cox, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.W.H. Hodgson and Miss F.C. Day
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Hodgson, of Warfield, Berkshire, and Felicity, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Day, of Hamble, Hampshire.

Mr J.U. Hales and Miss M.J. Benson
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Rev and Mrs G.F. Hales, of Claxby Hall, Lincolnshire, and Mary, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs J.E. Benson, of Walwick Farmhouse, Northumberland.

Mr W.E.H. Parker and Miss S.M. Maturin-Baird
The engagement is announced between William, son of Dr and Mrs John Parker, of Colchester, Essex, and Sophia, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Maturin-Baird, of Wissington, Suffolk.

Mr J-C. Reding and Miss L. Crosby
The engagement is announced between Jean-Claude, younger son of Mr and Mrs Jean Reding, of Heisdorf, Luxembourg, and Louise Caroline Aimée, daughter of Mr and Mrs John A. Crosby, of Garnish, Luxembourg.

Mr J.A. Richardson and Dr A.M.J. Baldwin
The engagement is announced between Jason, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Clive Richardson, of Chobham, Surrey, and Alison, third daughter of Mr and Mrs John Baldwin, of Nether Exe, Devon.

Mr C.F. Royle and Miss T.V. Mugford
The engagement is announced between Charles Fanshawe, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs A.F. Royle, of Lancaster, and Tracy Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Mugford, of Sunbury-on-Thames.

Flight Lieutenant G. Sumner RAF, and Miss C.J. Morse
The engagement is announced between Gregory, eldest son of Mr Richard Sumner, stepson of Mrs Kathleen Sumner and son of Mrs Jane Fowler, and Carolyn, younger daughter of the late Captain David Morse, RN, and of Mrs David Morse, of Powerstock, Dorset.

Mr T.C.C. Williams and Miss K.R. Moody
The engagement is announced between Thomas Christopher Charles, younger son of Mr Christopher Williams, of Herne Bay, Kent, and Mrs Gay Sharpe and stepson of Colonel Trevor Sharpe, of Ingerstone Foy, Herefordshire, and Karen Ruth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Moody, of Boston, Lincolnshire.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: David Bruce, David II, King of Scotland reigned 1329-71, Dunfermline, 1324; Gerhardus Mercator, cartographer, Rupelmonde, Belgium, 1512; Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, explorer and founder of the city of Detroit, Les Laumets, France, 1658; Sir Austen Layard, archaeologist and excavator of Nineveh, Paris, 1817; Sir Charles Thomson, naturalist, Bonsyde, Lothian, 1830; Sir Henry Wilson, field marshal, Edgeworth, Co Longford, 1864; William Henry Beveridge, 1st Baron Beveridge, economist, Rangpur, India, 1879.

DEATHS: Antonio Correggio, painter, Correggio, Italy, 1534; Thomas Arne, composer, London, 1778; Flora Macdonald, Jacobite, Skye, 1790; Franz Mesmer, physician and pioneer of hypnotism, Miersburg, Austria, 1815; Pierre Simon, Marquis de Laplace, astronomer, 1827; Count Alessandro Volta, physicist, Como, 1827; Sir Henry Rawlinson, orientalist, London, 1895; Edgar Lee Masters, poet and novelist, Philadelphia, 1950; Sergei Prokofiev, composer, Moscow, 1953; Joseph Stalin, Soviet leader, Moscow, 1953; Anna Akhmatova, poet, Moscow, 1966; Tito Gobbi, baritone, Rome, 1984.

British troops opened fire on a civilian crowd in Boston, Massachusetts, killing five people, in what was dubbed "The Boston Massacre", 1770.

Covent Garden Theatre was destroyed by fire, 1856.

The Nazis won almost half the seats in the German general elections, 1933.

The Spitfire made its first flight from Eastleigh aerodrome, Southampton, 1936.

Elections

The Earl of Stockton to be Chairman of the British section of the European League for Economic Co-operation in succession to Lord Kingsland, QC. Mr Christopher Saunders was elected Hon Treasurer in succession to Lord Dahrendorf, FBA.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6.12 (NIV).

BIRTHS

BARNES - On Monday 22nd February at Stoke Mandville, to Willemien (née Meursing) and Graham, a son, Frederik William Peter.

BATES - To Brigid and Simon on 28th February, Rory, baby brother to Olivia and Nicholas.

BONHAM CARTER - On 26th February to Katie (née Dawnay) and Crispin, a son, Kit, a brother for Arthur.

EDWARDS - On February 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (née Myers) and Chris, an adorable wonderful son, Rory Taylor Cameron.

HUON-DUMENTAT - On February 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Audrey and Bernard, a daughter, Alaxira Clara, a sister for Meles Pierrette.

MURRAY/VERDINO - On 1st February 1999 to Dorcas Murray and Gerard Verdino, a wonderful son, Marco Charles Joseph.

TILBURY - On March 1st, to Karen and Graham, a son, Jude Rennan Ralph, a brother for Aidan.

DEATHS

ALDRIDGE - William Mark, younger son of Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Aldridge and father of James and David; suddenly on March 3rd. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

ASHBOURNE - Trevor John on 28th February aged 46, loving husband, father, son and brother. Funeral Service on Monday 8th March at St Mark's Church, Pesslake at 12.30pm. All enquiries to Sherlock & Sons, tel: (01306) 882266.

AWDE - Patricia Mary peacefully on 1st March at Newstead Nursing Home, Highgate after fighting illness with character, humour and patience, aged 85. Greatly missed by her family and friends. Funeral at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, London N2 on Monday, March 8th at 1pm. Enquiries to Leverton & Sons, Funeral Directors, 0181 444 5753.

BINNIAN - James Anthony (Tony) peacefully at home - dearest husband of Celia and the late Ann, much loved and devoted father of Andrew, Jeremy and Ian. Private cremation to be followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Monmouth at 2.30 pm on Friday 12th March. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to be divided between St Mary's Church, Monmouth and The Anthony Binnian Organ Bursary for Monmouth School. Enquiries to David Stockwell & Co., 16 Glendower Street, Monmouth, tel: (01600) 713750.

BROCK - Patricia (née Folkes) on March 3rd 1999 in Ontario, Canada, in her 80th year. Wife of the late Jeffrey Brock, much loved mother of Alex, Jeffrey and William.

BYRNE - Edward Michael on 1st March 1999 peacefully after a long illness. Dearly loved husband of Christine, proud father of Hilary, Catherine, Hugh, Alastair, Rachel and Victoria. Grandfather of Robert, William, Eleanor, Jamie, Simon, Charlotte and Edward. Requiem Mass at St Christopher's Church, Dallas Road, Cheam, Surrey on Friday 12th March 11.00 am. Flowers to WA Truelove & Sons, donations for The Gurkha Welfare Trust c/o 0181 642 3300.

CAMERON - Milli, adored mother of Jean and Gay and deeply loved grandmother of Charlie and Fanny. Died peacefully at home on 3rd March 1999, aged 97. Private cremation at Mortlake. Memorial Service 8th April at 12 noon at St Mary's Parish Church, Richmond. Everyone welcome. Family flowers only. Donations to Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. Enquiries to T H Sanders 0181 948 1551.

CORK and ORRERY - On Tuesday 2nd March 1999, peacefully at Rosemary Park Nursing Home, Haslemere, aged 90 years. Mary Gabrielle, Dowager Countess beloved wife of the late Patrick Reginald, thirteenth Earl. Cremation private. Donations if desired to Alzheimer's Disease Society, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

CORNWALL-JONES - Marie Evelyn Joan (née Hammersley-Smith). Aged 88. Widow of Arthur and mother of Guy, Mark, Paul and Dan. After a full life, died peacefully on Wednesday 3rd March. There will be a private cremation, to be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Swyncombe Church, Rotherfield Grey, Oxon, on a date to be announced.

CRESWELL - Peacefully at home on 28th February, Nick, partner of Richard, father of Belinda and Mandy, grandfather of Josh. Dearly loved by many. All friends welcome at Iken Church, Suffolk on Tuesday 9th March 2.30pm. Flowers, daffodils only please, to Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

DONATH - Kaethe (née Kopperl) peacefully in Cornwall on 4th March 1999 aged 87. Very much loved mother of Renée and grandmother of Catherine and Charles. Funeral private.

EVANS - Una Maura (née Flynn), loving wife of John Henry and mother of Peter John, passed over peacefully at Frimley Park Hospital on Thursday 4th March 1999, aged 73 years. Will be very sadly missed. Donations in lieu of flowers to Intensive Care Unit at Frimley Park Hospital. E. Finch & Sons (01252 322281).

GOLD - Constance Mary (Molly) peacefully on 26th February. Private Cremation. Memorial Service at St Johns Church, Stansted on Friday 12th March 1999 at 2.30pm. Donations, if wished, payable to Arthritis Research or The British Red Cross, c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd, 3 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9DB. Tel 01279 722476.

GORDON DUFF - On 2nd March after an illness borne with such dignity and courage, Roderick, MBE, MA, Lt Col, late Queen's Own Highlanders. Darling husband of Patricia and much loved father of Nicola and Randal. A friend and support to many others. Funeral service at St George's Garrison Church, Bulford Camp, Thursday 11th March at 2 pm followed by cremation. Thanksgiving Service on 23rd April 2 pm, Shrivenham Parish Church and afterwards at RMCS. Donations in his memory to The Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond, TW10 6RR, telephone 0181-940 3314.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

GRAVES - On 3rd March 1999 at St Augustine's Nursing Home, St Leonards-on-Sea, after a short illness, Lawrence Frank, aged 76 years, formerly of National Provincial Bank and National Westminster Bank. Beloved husband of Antoinetta née Verkooijen and father of Bernard, Edward, Lambert and Antoinetta. Funeral Service at 11.30 am Wednesday 10th March at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, High Street, Hastings, followed by burial at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, St Andrew's Church, Fairlight and then a brief reception at the Fairlight Lodge Hotel, Fairlight Road, Hastings. Family flowers only please; donations for "St Augustine's Foundation League of Friends" may be sent to A.C. Towner Ltd., 3 & 4 Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6NH.

GUNN - Constance Anna (née Rogers), peacefully in Cannes, France on 20th February 1999. Formerly Librarian at Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Widow of Professor B.G. "Jack" Gunn. Private funeral has taken place. Any communication to nephew B.H. Rogers 01935 474750.

HARROP - Frances May on 4th March peacefully in The Pines Nursing Home in Putney aged 98 years. Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Peter and Margaret and devoted grandmother of Andrew and Nicholas. Cremation Service at Mortlake on Thursday 11th March at 4pm. Flowers to T.H. Sanders & Sons, 447 Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14.

HOPKINS - Peacefully at Hemel Hempstead Hospital after a short illness Richard Robert Hopkins C.B.E. aged 88 years. Loving father of Julian and Jennifer, much loved grandpa of Justin, Julia, Emma, Toby and Ben. Funeral Service at West Hertfordshire Crematorium, Watford on Tuesday March 9th at 3.20pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Macular Degenerative Disease Society. Donations and enquiries to L.C. Weston F.D., No.25, 17 Leyton Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2HY. Tel: 01582 712865.

JOHNSON - Derek John O.B.E. of Tutbury. Died peacefully on February 27th after a long illness patiently borne. Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Tutbury, Thursday 11th March at 2.00pm. Donations in lieu of flowers for The Parkinsons Disease Society c/o J Hylton & Sons, Funeral Directors, 32 St Peters Street, Stapenhill, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire DE15 9AW. Tel 01283 516666.

LONG - Rosalind (of Woldingham, Surrey) our wonderful mother, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend, died on 2nd March after a courageous struggle against cancer, aged 57. Her funeral will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Essendene Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, Surrey at 2.00pm on Thursday 11th March. Please send donations, if desired, in place of flowers, payable to one of her favourite charities: Action Aid, Amnesty International or the Cardinal Hume Centre, care of Alex Jones Funeral Directors, 1 East Grinstead Road, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6EP. (Telephone 01342 832534).

MacGREGOR - Patricia Margaret Aline (Patsy). Suddenly on 1st March, 1999, in Bath. Dearly beloved wife of David and much loved sister of Beatrice. Service on Tuesday 16th March at 2pm at Putney Vale Crematorium, London SW15. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Norfolk Wildlife Trust, 72 Cathedral Close, Norwich, NR1 4DF.

MAHUZIES - On 3rd March 1999 Marguerite aged 86 years, formerly of Stalbridge Dorset. Requiem Mass at the Roman Catholic Church Marnhull on Friday 12th March at 11 am followed by interment. Enquiries to A.J. Wakely & Sons 01308 423726.

McGAW - Commander Alan William Thoburn aged 90 on March 3rd at home. For 56 years blissfully married to the late Patricia. Much loved as father to Ian, stepfather to Brian and David Nicholson and Mary Christie, brother to Jane Bowlby, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Putney Vale Crematorium 10.30 am Wednesday March 10th. Memorial Service to be announced later. Family flowers only please but donations welcome to Royal Marsden Hospital or Burrswood Christian Centre for Healthcare and Ministry, Groombridge, Kent TN3 9PY.

McLUCKIE - James Robert, born 11th July 1998, died peacefully at Great Ormond Street Hospital on 28th February 1999. Much loved son of Douglas and Jayne. Funeral on Tuesday 9th March at Kingston Crematorium at 11.40am. Family flowers only. Donations please to G.O.S.H. Children's Charity.

NICHOLSON - (née Fuge). On March 1st, peacefully in her sleep, Patricia, dear wife of Robert Nicholson, mother of Brian, George and Robert, and Granny of Patricia, Brian, Bobby and John. Cremation private. Requiem mass at Sacred Hearts Church, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, on Saturday 6th March at 2pm. No flowers, but donations if desired to Crisis 0171 655 8332, or BACUP 0171 696 9003.

POOLE - Damian (son of the late Joseph and Judith Poole), suddenly on 2nd March 1999. His sisters and brother, Gillian, Katharine and Quentin; niece and nephew Nicola and Simon; brother-in-law Roger; and close friend Ann, give thanks for the gentle, wise and generous friendship he gave to them, to his godchildren, to his friends and colleagues. Funeral, St George's Church, Altrincham, Manchester, 2.30pm, 11th March. Donations to St George's Bicentenary Fund rather than flowers. 'May thy portion this day be in peace, and thy dwelling in the heavenly Jerusalem'.

ROBSON - Dorothy died peacefully at home 2nd March 1999. Dearly loved wife of George (decd), mother of David (died 17.1.99), Duncan (decd) and Tricia, mother-in-law of June, grandmother of Louise, Ian and Andrew and great-grandmother of Jacob. All enquiries to Frederick W. Paine 0181 977 1527.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

ROSSDALE - (née Clifton). Jillian Ruth, J.P. On March 2nd after seven months of suffering terminal illness, borne with characteristic courage and sublime acceptance. Dearly loved and warmly loving Wife (Peter), Mother (Simon, Sally and Anthony), Grandmother (Sophie, Natasha, Sapphire, Victoria, Thomas and Annabel) and Sister (Jack, Judy, Jan and Martin). Family funeral. No flowers. Donations c/o Southgates, Newmarket, for the Newmarket Day Centre and St Nicholas Hospice, Bury St Edmunds. What happy hours we have enjoyed, we hold their memories still, but they have left an aching void the world can never fill. Service of thanksgiving for her life, April 22nd, 11.00 a.m., All Saints Church, Newmarket.

SIMPSON - Peter Donald Roughton (aged 72). Suddenly on 3rd March 1999 at home in Slaugham. Adored by his wife, sons, daughters-in-law and his grandchildren. Cremation at Worth Crematorium, Crawley, West Sussex at 2.30pm on Wednesday 10th March. Family flowers only please. Donations to The Woodland Trust Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

STEPHENSON - On 3rd March peacefully at home, Una of Rectory Park, Morpeth Northumberland. Dearly loved wife of George Richard and devoted mother of Roy, mother-in-law of Anna and grandmother of Victoria, Lydia and Amelia. Service at St Andrew's Cemetery Chapel, Hexham, followed by burial on Tuesday 9th March at 10.30 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care may be sent c/o J.W. Peters Funeral Directors, Wellwood House, Morpeth NE61 1SU.

WALKER - John F on February 28th, previously of the Ministry of Defence, after a long illness at the Retreat in Yorkshire. The funeral will be at York Crematorium (Fielders of York) on Tuesday March 9th at 1.30 pm. Donations to the Alzheimer's Disease Society, 10 Greencoat Place, SW1P 1PH.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MITCHISON - A Memorial Meeting for Naomi Mitchison will be held in the Upper Refectory University College, London on March 20th at 2.30 pm. All friends welcome. Enquiries 0181 940 4731.

BIRTHDAYS

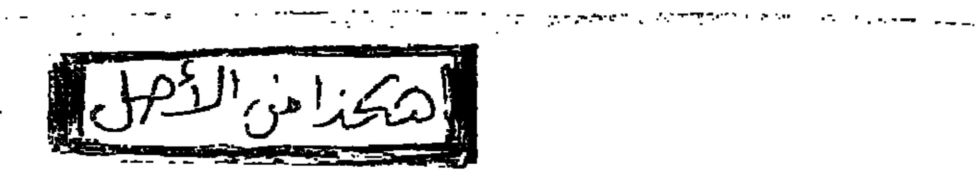
TARA Happy Birthday, you have been adopted in 1970. I never stopped loving you. From Montreal your first mother and your sisters. Ann Carder 514 [illegible] 5248 or e-mail [illegible]

WANTED

FIVE NATIONS Rugby tickets. All matches and nation wide collection Tel/Fax 0171 [illegible] 6662

FLAME Dutch Snowboarder is (desperately) seeking Nanny (graduate, care of 3 kids). Eye contact in Flaine, France 3rd week February. Can't forget the moment. Please contact

MINK COATS, fox coats purchased Best price paid. Please send enquires & details to box 5220



OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN DAVID GOODWIN



Goodwin on the bridge of the destroyer *Duchess* in the Mediterranean in the 1950s

Captain David Goodwin, CBE, DSC, Taranto veteran and Chief of Staff, British Naval Mission, Washington, 1958-60, died on February 25 aged 87. He was born on February 2, 1912.

DAVID GOODWIN was one of the last surviving Fleet Air Arm aircrew who attacked the Italian harbour of Taranto during the night of November 11, 1940, sinking three battleships, and a cruiser for the loss of only two aircraft. The Royal Navy annually commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar on October 21, but such was the unprecedented success of this admirably planned and executed attack that it has since become the Fleet Air Arm's special anniversary and is celebrated by it with equal, if not greater, fervour.

Indeed, Admiral Cunningham, the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean fleet, had originally wanted the attack to take place on Trafalgar Day, but a fire in the aircraft carrier *Illustrious* delayed it, while bomb damage to the aviation spirit supply system of the carrier *Eagle* caused her to be withdrawn from the operation. Goodwin was the observer and navigator in one of the five *Eagle* aircraft that were transferred to augment *Illustrious*'s strike force of obsolescent Swordfish biplanes. His pilot was a Royal Marine captain, "Ollie" Patch.

Taranto was heavily defended and the plan included diversionary bombing and the dropping of flares to silhouette the targets. Two waves, each of 12 aircraft, went in an hour apart. Goodwin, in the second wave, recalled that although he had been in many night attacks he had never seen such a barrage of searchlights and anti-aircraft fire as that put up by the Italian ships and harbour defences. He was awarded an immediate DSC for his part in the attack.

Besides providing a much needed stimulus at home, the crippling of half the Italian battlefleet profoundly altered the strategic naval situation in the Mediterranean, freeing elements of the British Fleet for tasks elsewhere and allowing easier passage for convoys.

Joining Dartmouth in 1925 at 13, David Goodwin first served in the last of the coal-burning battleships, *Empress of India*. In the 1930s he served all over the Far East in the cruisers of the China Station. Later, when in the Mediterranean, he was in the cruiser *London* in 1936 when she became involved in latter-day gunboat diplomacy, threatening a Turkish town and landing a contingent to enforce reparations after a diplomatic incident.

Volunteering for the Fleet Air Arm in 1936, Goodwin was appointed back to the Far East in the carriers *Courageous* and *Eagle*. At the outbreak of war *Eagle* was first employed looking for the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* and escorting the first enormous convoy of Australian and New Zealand troops to the Middle East.

In 1940 with Italy entering the war, *Eagle* was the only British carrier east of Malta and was severely stretched by continuous flying operations, patrols, attacks on the Italian fleet by day and their harbours by night. Even when *Eagle* was in harbour in Alexandria, there was little respite for the air group who were sent with tents and baggage into the desert to help the Eighth Army.

After nearly three years in *Eagle*, Goodwin was sent home to command No 819 Swordfish squadron, an unusual appointment for an observer and for someone as junior as a lieutenant. Based in the Orkneys, his squadron patrolled the North Sea, waiting in vain for the German capital ships to emerge from the Norwegian fiords. In 1943, after rapid promotion to commander, he was put in charge of the naval signal school at Arbroath where he taught the fledgling art of radar-controlled intercepts.

Appointed in command of the air group in the new light fleet carrier *Glory*, Goodwin sailed from England in 1945 for the Pacific. Arriving in Sydney just in time for the Japanese surrender, *Glory* was subsequently employed on repatriation and surrender missions. Goodwin's postwar career was notable for his two years in Australia as chief of staff to the Fourth Naval Member and for his work in helping to build up the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm.

On returning home, he was given command of the Navy's fighter direction and radar school, *HMS Harrier*, at Kete on the remote coast of Wales. Isolated and perched on a cliff, they had to make their own entertainment. On one occasion, Goodwin's C-in-C ordered him to do something about the excessive birthrate amongst his 180 Wren personnel.

Later appointments included two years in command of the destroyer *Duchess*. His final tour was as chief of staff to the British Naval Mission in Washington, a busy period of collaboration on nuclear submarine and missile programmes. Retiring in 1960, he was appointed CBE.

He spent the next five years as the managing director of a newly-founded company set up at Pembroke Dock to service oil tankers offloading their cargoes at Milford Haven.

From 1965 the Goodwin family moved back to the New Forest and he worked as the chairman of numerous civil service selection boards and for the Ministry of Agriculture's farm housing board. He gave up these activities in 1977 when his wife Aline, whom he had married in 1937, became disabled. She died in 1991 and he is survived by their two sons.

HARRY BLACKMUN

Harry Blackmun, Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court, died yesterday in Arlington, Virginia, aged 90. He was born in Nashville, Illinois, on November 12, 1908.

By the time he retired in 1994, Harry Blackmun had accumulated more than 60,000 pieces of hate-mail, all of it connected with a single case. For it was Blackmun who wrote the ground-breaking majority opinion in the Roe v Wade case in 1973, which established a woman's constitutional right to abortion.

At the centre of the case was "Jane Roe", a pseudonym for Norma McCorvey, a 21-year-old waitress from Texas who had been raped by three men after returning home from a carnival. She was pregnant as a consequence and wanted an abortion. Her case had been taken up by Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee, two ambitious pro-choice lawyers who appealed to the US Supreme Court. Blackmun, who was only in his second year in the court, announced on June 22, 1973, a 7-2 ruling which invalidated the anti-abortion laws of 46 states.

Hours after the decision, hospitals in America were receiving calls from women asking where they could get an abortion. By the end of 1973 the number of abortions undertaken in America was 744,000; in 1975 the figure was one million.

Blackmun must have been a disappointment to President Richard Nixon, who appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1970. He was nominated in the belief that he was a conservative, a lifelong Republican and strict constructionist who would help his childhood friend, Chief Justice Warren Burger, to undo the liberal excesses of the Court under Earl Warren. Indeed, during his first two years on the bench, Blackmun voted with Burger on so many occasions that they became known as "the Minnesota twins" — both having grown up and gone to the same school in St Paul, Minnesota.

But then came Roe v Wade. Blackmun's judgments increasingly began to show tolerance of dissent, and a unconservative tendency to favour the underdog in American society. More and more often he could be found voting alongside Justices William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall until, after their retirement, he was recognised as the leading liberal in the Court.

Blackmun believed that the law was not "a rigid animal or a rigid profession", but rather "a constant search for truth" and that justices of the Supreme Court should "grow constitutionally" during their terms. His willingness to reconsider his own views was illustrated by his attitude towards non-traditional lifestyles. In 1971, in a dissenting opinion, he argued that the "absurd and immature antic" of wearing a jacket in court bearing the words "Fuck the Draft" was not constitutionally protected. And in 1974 he supported the prosecution of those who sewed the Stars and Stripes to the rear of their trousers. Yet in two later cases, in 1989 and 1990, Blackmun held that the First Amendment protected those who burnt the American flag during political protests.

When the Court ruled in 1977 that women on low incomes could not receive federal funding for abortions on the grounds that they could find the money elsewhere, Blackmun described the reasoning as "disingenuous and alarming, almost reminiscent of 'Let them eat cake'". "There is another world out there," he went on, "the existence of which the Court, I suspect, either chooses to ignore or fears to recognise."



Blackmun in 1994 just before his retirement from the US Supreme Court

At the root of Harry Blackmun's judicial philosophy was his understanding of the impact that Supreme Court decisions often had on those who inhabited what he called "the real world". He once said "every case involves people. If we forget the humanity of the litigants before us we are in trouble, no matter how great our supposed legal philosophy can be."

The son of devout Methodists, Harold Andrew Blackmun won a partial scholarship to Harvard University where he graduated in 1929 in mathematics. For a time he toyed with the idea of a medical career, but eventually decided on the law and gained his LLB degree from Harvard Law School in 1932.

Blackmun's subsequent career, as a lawyer specialising in tax cases and civil litigation for a firm in Minneapolis, seemed unlikely to fit him for the legal heights. He left in 1950 to become resident counsel at the Mayo Clinic, and then, in 1959, became a judge at the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. This may have had something to do with the fact that Warren Burger, with whom he had delivered newspapers at school, was by this time a judge on the Appeals Court in Washington.

Blackmun worked long hours and produced equally long and scholarly opinions. His criminal decisions were solidly conservative, and though there was a hint of liberalism in his rulings on civil rights, it was not enough to disturb President Nixon when he chose a replacement for the disgraced Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas in May 1969.

Blackmun was not Nixon's first choice, but after Clement Haynsworth and Harold Carswell had been rejected by the Senate on the grounds that the first had dubious business ties, the second was mediocre, and both were anti-black, Nixon needed a safe alternative. So Harry Blackmun won unanimous Senate confirmation and was duly sworn in as the Supreme Court's ninth justice on May 12, 1970. Blackmun would subseqently refer to himself as "Old Number Three".

It was shortly afterwards that Blackmun provided a clue to the career that was to follow. "I've been called a liberal and a conservative," he said. "Labels are deceiving."

As Reagan and Bush aimed to establish a conservative majority in the Court during the 1980s, Blackmun seemed increasingly liberal by contrast, though he maintained that it was not he who had changed, but the Court. Shortly before his retirement in April 1994, he called for the forcible repatriation of Haitian refugees to cease, and announced that he was against the death penalty. A friend of President Clinton, Blackmun timed his retirement to allow Clinton to appoint a liberal successor. He was succeeded by Stephen Breyer.

On the abortion issue he did not waver. As each challenge emerged over the years, and Roe v Wade seemed increasingly threatened under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, Blackmun grew increasingly passionate. In a dissenting opinion to the majority decision in the case of Webster v Reproductive Health Services in 1989, he concluded: "The women of this nation still retain the liberty to control their destinies. But the signs are evident and very ominous, and a chill wind blows."

Nevertheless, to date, his original ruling has not been overturned, though ironically, late last year Norma McCorvey — "Jane Roe" — announced that she had become a Roman Catholic, and now she speaks out against abortion.

Harry Blackmun is survived by his wife Dorothy, and three daughters.

RICHARD ALLEN

Richard Allen, painter and teacher, died on February 9 aged 66. He was born on February 8, 1933.

RICHARD ALLEN was best known as a decidedly rigorous systems artist, painting patterns made up of grids and bars and frequently confining his palette to black and white, or even white on white. In the circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that he was better known abroad than at home, though a contributory factor was his withdrawal from the London art scene, to live and work in Jersey, in 1977.

Born in Worcester, Allen initially intended to do something in agriculture, and to that end studied at Worcester College of Technology. But after doing his National Service in Korea he was bitten by the art bug, and a chance encounter encouraged him to transfer his studies to Worcester School of Art in 1955. In 1957 he went on to Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, where his contemporaries included Howard Hodgkin.

While studying there he became interested in the kind of free-form semi-abstraction then much in vogue, though his sympathies shifted slightly when, on a year-long art scholarship from the Italian Government, his imagination was captured by a Milan hoarding made up of re-used planks still bearing jumbled remnants of old posters.

On his return to England he made his first appearance before the public as a pop artist. The phase was short-lived, however, and was succeeded by an interest in Op Art and kinetic art, so by 1964 he was exhibiting alongside Bridget Riley and Peter Sedgely in Op Art manifestations. He even joined the Match Shed co-operative organised by Riley and Sedgely, and exhibited with the newly opened Angela Flowers Gallery in 1972, showing paintings based on moire patterning.

In 1971 he had joined Matrix, a group interested in exploring an even more systematic form of painting. This evolved into Systems, in whose work every detail was controlled by a system of construction previously arrived at. Curiously — though Allen applied these ideas as precisely as anybody — he was plagued with self-doubt.



Richard Allen in his studio during the 1970s

The Minimalist approach to art that became fashionable in the mid-1970s suited him better, and under its influence he became what he liked to call a "fundamental" painter. About 1975 he decided to remove colour altogether from his art, confining himself instead to grid patterns made with charcoal and cellulose acetate on canvas or wax and charcoal on paper.

He remained true to this self-denying ordinance for some 20 years, returning to partial colour only in the mid-1990s, when he began a series of "White Paintings" in oils, which are to be shown at Angela Flowers this April.

Though it may seem from this account that Allen was unduly influenced by whatever happened to be the *avant garde* fashion of the moment, his art was in fact remarkably consistent and independent in its development. It was simply that, as a modest man much given to self-questioning, he needed as much outside reassurance as possible.

Those he taught, in his many teaching and advisory capacities, found him remarkably undictatorial, with his eye much more on the spiritual values of art than on commercial knowhow.

His wife Evelyn, whom he married in 1961, came from Jersey, and when they moved to the island he played an active part in its artistic life, opening two galleries devoted to contemporary art and encouraging the establishment of a Jersey Arts Centre, as well as founding Exart, a design company ready to take on all sorts of commissions, including designing the signs for Jersey Zoo.

From Jersey he continued to work internationally, being called in regularly as a consultant by the Ruhr Regional Planning Authority and similar bodies in The Netherlands, Belgium, Hungary and even, occasionally, England.

In 1991 Allen and his wife decided to return to England and settled in Whitney-on-Wye. Shortly after their return, however, Evelyn was stricken with cancer, and she died in 1997. Soon after her death Allen himself was found to be suffering from motor neurone disease. His response to the diagnosis was to move to London, buy himself a computer and begin to use it in his art to design paintings which could be executed by others if he became physically incapable.

Last year he enjoyed a retrospective exhibition, which began at the University of Wales School of Art, Aberystwyth, and will be seen in Jersey later this year. He is survived by two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

March 5, 1937

Air raid wardens were to play a very important part in ensuring the safety of civilians during the Second World War.

LOCAL WARDENS IN AIR RAIDS

THE Home Office Air Raid Precautions Department yesterday issued a memorandum, which has been sent to local authorities, on the work to be performed by air raid wardens in the event of air attack (Stationery Office, price 2d). About 300,000 volunteers are to be recruited as wardens, whose duty will be to advise residents in certain areas on the officially recommended precautions against air raids, to assist in the distribution of civilian respirators, and, in the event of war, to play an active part in helping the public both during and after an air raid.

The memorandum explains the need for the organization of citizen volunteers, to perform a number of important duties in time of air attack, and thereby to augment and relieve the normal resources of the civil authorities for safeguarding the general public. The work which these volunteers will be asked to undertake will, in normal circumstances, be close to their homes or places of work, and will constitute an essential part of the air raid precautions services of local authorities.

It is proposed that every borough and district, singly or in co-operation with its neighbours, and in consultation with the police, should arrange for the organization and training of a body of air raid wardens. It may be possible in forming local schemes to utilize the organization of some existing body or association. An offer by the British Legion to place its organization at the service of local authorities for this purpose has been accepted; but this acceptance does not prevent local authorities obtaining their wardens from other sources or forming their organization in some different way. The memorandum states that, though wardens should be men, there is no intrinsic reason why women should not perform the duties, particularly in residential districts, where nearly all the men are away at work throughout the day.

Wardens, it is added, will operate from fixed posts, each responsible for a defined group of streets or "sectors", and each manned during times of air raids by two or perhaps three wardens. Posts will be established in all parts of the area — one post to every 500 inhabitants in residential districts and one post to every quarter of a mile in industrial and business areas. Where necessary each post will be provided with two or even three reliefs. The proposals indicate a requirement of approximately 300,000 for the whole country, including 70,000 to 80,000 for Greater London, and 20,000 for Scotland.

Air-raid wardens, it is advised, should be responsible men, over 30 years of age, not enrolled in the Territorial Forces or Auxiliary Air Force or liable to recall as Reservists to the defence forces, police or fire brigades. They should be of good character, level-headed, and free from obvious physical or temperamental disability. They will be trained to have a knowledge of the air-raid precautions organization, the anti-gas precautions, and the scheme for distributing respirators in their sectors. They will be taught how to fit civilian respirators, how to recognize gas bombs and detect the presence of gas. This will mean full anti-gas training, preferably by an instructor who has qualified at the Civilian Anti-Gas School.

NEWS

Protest to US in banana trade war

■ Britain's relations with the United States were jolted last night as a long-running dispute over banana imports to Europe flared into a trade war.
The American Ambassador to London was summoned to the Department of Trade and Industry to face a fierce protest over Washington's action in imposing swingeing new duties on £350 million worth of European goods, including the Scottish cashmere industry .....Page 1

Uganda pledges justice for victims

■ Holding out death notes placed on the chests of two victims of Monday's slaughter of tourists in south-west Uganda, an army colonel vowed that his men would hunt down and kill the Rwandan rebels responsible. "It will not be a day; it will not be a week — but we will get them" .....Pages 1, 16, 17

Royal day out

Prince Philip landed the plum part when he and the Queen spent a day touring London's theatreland yesterday .....Page 1

GM fears on water

The water industry is demanding a moratorium on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops amid fears that the chemicals used on them may heavily pollute rivers, lakes, and reservoirs .....Page 2

Foster pair charged

A couple who were at the centre of a nationwide hunt after they disappeared for four months with their foster daughters are to be charged with abduction, police said .....Page 5

'Imposter wife' claim

A husband turned cold against his wife because he believes she has been replaced by an impostor, a court heard. Alan Davies is convinced that his real wife died in a car crash .....Page 7

Premium on students

Universities will receive a 5 per cent "premium" for every student they recruit from poor areas, to try to ensure that an extra 45,000 places go to groups under-represented on campuses .....Page 8

Dome super sale

The 90ft body in the Millennium Dome is to be the prize lot in a sale of the exhibition's contents at the end of 2000 .....Page 9

Vanessa staff sacked

The BBC has sacked three members of staff from *The Vanessa Show* over allegations that fake guests appeared on the programme .....Page 11

Westminster fee plan

Plans to charge tourists £6.50 to visit the Palace of Westminster over summer could be blocked by the House of Lords .....Page 12

US pilot acquitted

Italians reacted with anger to the acquittal of a US Marine pilot on all charges of reckless flying when his jet sheared a gondola cable above an Italian ski resort, killing 20 people .....Page 13

Iraq lures pilots

Iraqi fighter pilots are trying to lure British and American aircraft over hidden surface-to-air missile sites as part of daily confrontations over Iraq .....Page 14

Iran backs reform

Reformers supporting President Khatami of Iran appear set for victory in the first ever local elections which have highlighted the waning influence of his hardline opponents .....Page 15

Tiananmen petition

Ten years after the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, relatives and friends of those killed or injured have petitioned the National People's Congress to apologise .....Page 18

Monica publicity train leads to Essex

When Monica Lewinsky began her affair with President Clinton, it is unlikely that she saw it ending with a trip to the Lakeside shopping centre in Essex. The shopping mecca is, however, where she will be at 11.30am next Saturday, signing copies of Andrew Morton's book and fulfilling her requirement of the modern book deal — the publicity tour .....Page 3



SIMON BURT

The Cornish piper Merv Davey prepares to lead today's St Piran's day parade over the dunes at Perranporth to St Piran's oratory

Rates held: The European Central Bank held its key interest rate unchanged at 3 per cent, ignoring pressure from Germany to cut the cost of borrowing in countries within the single currency .....Page 27

Insurance payout: Royal and Sun Alliance is returning £750 million in cash to investors despite suffering a 39 per cent fall in operating profits .....Page 27

Rolls-Royce boom: Rolls-Royce ended the year with a £10.4 billion order book, and work worth £2.2 billion in the pipeline .....Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 53.1 to 6101.4. The pound fell 1.00 cent to $1.6077 and rose 0.13p against the euro to 67.35p. The sterling index rose to 102.6 from 102.5 .....Page 30

Football: Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, is expected to be away from the game for several weeks after suffering a heart attack before the game against Sheffield Wednesday .....Page 52

Motor racing: Damon Hill was willing to bury his hatchet to press the claims of his adversary, Michael Schumacher, as this year's Formula One world champion .....Page 52

Rugby union: Richmond were meeting to decide whether the club should apply to go into administration after Ashley Levett reduced his investment .....Page 52

Athletics: Britain's most prestigious meeting has been downgraded to third-division status by the International Amateur Athletic Federation .....Page 46

Richard Morrison: The "dumbing down" issue is the chic cultural chatter of our day. Which is presumably why 150 of our finest thinkers are going to spend a whole weekend discussing it .....Page 35

Goethe celebrated: The 250th anniversary of the German writer's birth is marked with a weekend of concerts at the South Bank in London .....Page 35

Pride of the valleys: Stereophonics may be making it big in America, but the group remain rooted in their native Glamorgan .....Page 36

Kula comeback: Written off last year, Kula Shaker — led by Hayley Mills's son, Crispian — have returned with a strong new album called *Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts* .....Page 37

Loose talk: Drawstring pants are back. And if you want to avoid looking like a puppet, let them hang around your navel .....Page 20

Betrayed: "As a matter of fact I am in crisis. As of Thanksgiving, I've discovered a lifetime of betrayal from my husband, and I'm divorcing him." Lynn Redgrave talks to Janie Lawrence .....Page 21

Joe Joseph: "Robin Cook, Jack Straw, Frank Dobson, Alastair Campbell . . . names that have the power to inspire all of us to reassess our lives and to wonder if maybe it isn't time to emigrate" .....Page 21

Damage limitation: Scotland Yard's press officers are breathing a sigh of relief .....Page 39

Teatime: More newscasters are being turned into stars in the battle for teatime ratings .....Page 41

Team effort: The couple hired to raise standards in one of the UK's worst state schools .....Page 42

It is regrettable that Uganda should be at the receiving end of this dastardly act but the incident gives our neighbouring state an idea of what Kenya's image has been subjected to virtually with each ambush in which tourists have been injured and robbed.

The Daily Nation, Kenya

TOMORROW IN
The Saturday Times
Read the Simpsons

GOWMP, GOWMP, GOWMP...

MATT GROENING

Preview: Dawn French stars in *Murder Most Horrid* (BBC2, 9pm)
Review: Paul Hoggart on the Monica interview .....Pages 50, 51

Blair's banana skin

Tony Blair greatly admires the free-trading, modernising socialism of the Dutch. Had his ministers listened to The Netherlands last year, Scotland's cashmere industry would not now be facing ruin .....Page 23

Senator Clinton

The First Lady has hinted that she may seek election in the Senate. It is the Republicans who would most like her to declare .....Page 23

Old curiosity shop

Roll up, roll up. Tickets for London's longest-running show. The Palace of Westminster is throwing open its doors .....Page 23

MATTHEW PARRIS

Quite possibly Mr Byers had never said "banana" in his life. Banana splits are not the kind of pudding this quiet, neat, trim-suited man would order .....Page 2

SIMON JENKINS

This week, as we are all aware, a group of non-Europeans killed a group of Britons in a most brutal fashion. Meanwhile a group of Britons have killed non-Europeans in a most brutal fashion. That story has been ignored .....Page 22

MARY ANN SIEGHART

The onus is on opponents of EMU to boost people's confidence that Britain can thrive in the Union outside the eurozone .....Page 22

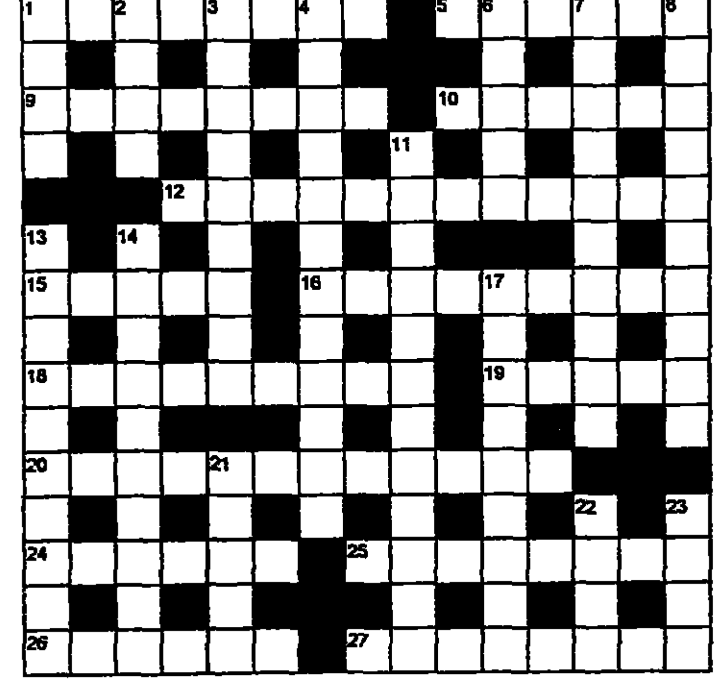
PHILIP HOWARD

Now is the time for Asterix and Obelix to visit euroland. Those anarchix cartoon Gauls have deconstructed and taken the pix out of most other human pomposities in their struggles with J. Caesar and his Treaty of Rome .....Page 20

Harry Blackmun, former US Supreme Court Justice; **Captain David Goodwin**, Taranto veteran; **Richard Allen**, painter .....Page 25

EU/US banana wars; cost of care for the elderly; advice for travellers; News at Ten; breastfeeding problems; scientists' fight against disease; Dr Jenner's cow .....Page 23

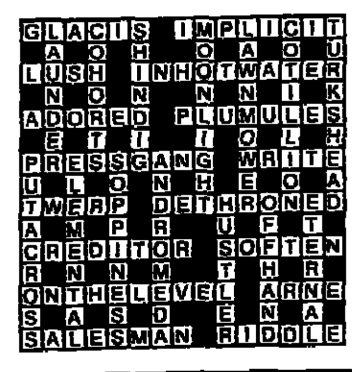
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,043



ACROSS
1 Getting rid of bribes flung back in face (8).
5 Doctrinaire person gets chap in a temper (6).
9 Poet penning English sketch in outline (8).
10 *Incomplete description after motorway accident* (6).
12 Having no first-hand experience? (12).
15 Name on end of title deed to make legal (5).
16 I can get queen ant on the move (9).
18 Fish caught in Scottish one, maybe (9).
19 *Fruit that is old and turning bad* (5).
20 Talking of a time during change-over (12).
24 Lament bird that's extinct in Scots upland (6).
25 He sings but one musical sound (8).
26 Avoid being sweet with opponents at bridge (6).
27 Doctor's replacement joining explorer in London area (4,4).

DOWN
1 Swindle mum, making money (4).
2 Want to have bishop's authority over king (4).
3 Defeat ended game (9).
4 One with an end in sight? (12).
6 Out in Lake Victoria (5).
7 Unconventional art coach, I'm not using colours (10).
8 Old Times composer, perhaps, a model to one like me? (10).
11 Stewed pear – yet in tin can (12).
13 Evil, bad pieces fabricated about Liberal (10).
14 A nominal inheritance (10).
17 OPEC soon compromise, initially dropping 50% throughout to make savings (9).
21 Rub out Times puzzle finally (5).
22 *State area covered by island* (4).
23 Decorate supporter of crew (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,042



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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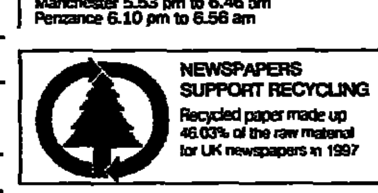
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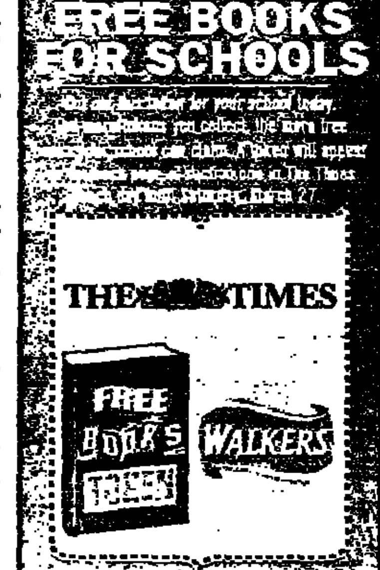
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.38 am — Sun sets: 5.46 pm
Moon sets: 8.09 am — Moon rises: 9.20 pm
Last quarter March 10
London 5.46 pm to 6.35 am
Bristol 5.57 pm to 6.46 am
Edinburgh 5.55 pm to 6.53 am
Manchester 5.53 pm to 6.46 am
Penzance 6.10 pm to 6.56 am





☐ **General:** western Scotland and N Ireland will be cold with brisk wind bringing sunny spells and heavy wintry showers. Eastern Scotland will be cloudy with occasional rain. England and Wales will also have a chilly day with sunny intervals and scattered heavy showers. Drier towards South Coast.

☐ **London, SE England, Cent S England, E Midlands, E England:** cloudy in east at first, brighter skies spreading from west. Sunny spells and scattered showers. Cold in moderate NW wind. Max 6-9C (43-48F).

☐ **E Anglia, Cent N & NE England:** cloudy and cold with limited sunny spells and a few showers, especially towards coast. Moderate NW wind. Max 5-7C (41-45F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** cold, blustery with sunny spells and scattered heavy showers. Fresh NW wind. Max 6-9C (43-48F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny, scattered showers. Wind NW strong. Max 9C (48F).

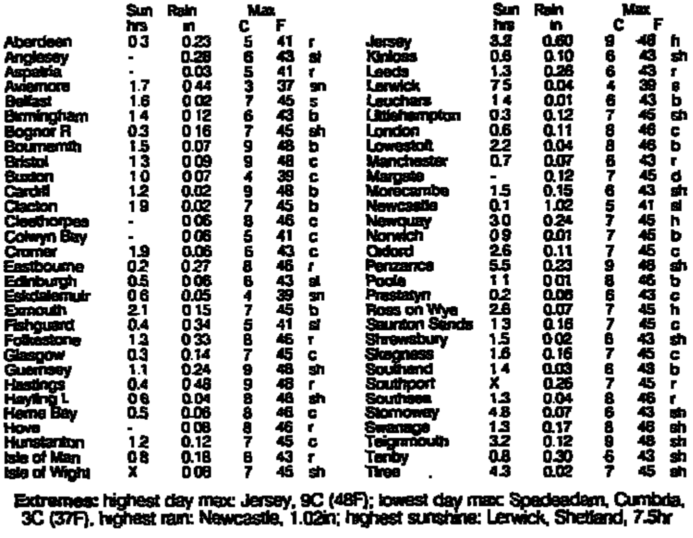
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** a few sunny intervals, but mainly cloudy and cold with patchy rain or sleet. Moderate NE wind. Max 4-7C (39-45F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cold with sunny intervals and blustery wintry showers. Strong NW wind will give high chill factor. Max 4-7C (39-45F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with light rain in morning. Sunny spells in afternoon. Max 3-6C (37-43F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold, showers.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales, h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

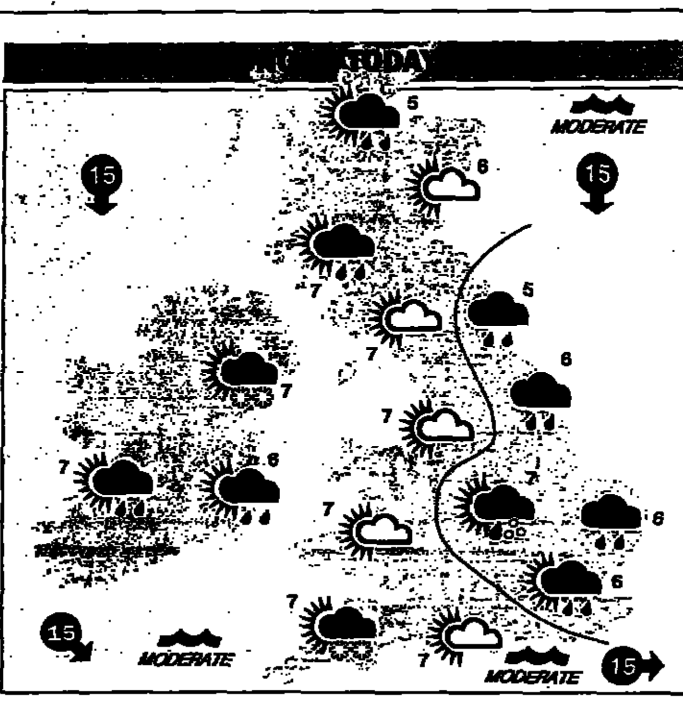


	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.3	0.23	5	41	r	Jersey	3.2	0.60	9	48	h
Anglesey	-	0.28	6	43	sl	Kinloss	0.6	0.10	6	43	sh
Aspatria	-	0.03	5	41	r	Leeds	1.3	0.26	6	43	r
Aviemore	1.7	0.44	3	37	sn	Lerwick	7.5	0.04	4	39	s
Belfast	1.6	0.02	7	45	s	Leuchars	1.4	0.01	6	43	b
Birmingham	1.4	0.12	6	43	b	Littlehampton	0.3	0.12	7	45	sh
Bognor R	0.3	0.16	7	45	sh	London	0.6	0.11	8	46	c
Bournemth	1.5	0.07	9	48	b	Lowestoft	2.2	0.04	8	46	b
Bristol	1.3	0.09	9	48	c	Manchester	0.7	0.07	6	43	r
Buxton	1.0	0.07	4	39	c	Margate	-	0.12	7	45	d
Cardiff	1.2	0.02	9	48	b	Morecambe	1.5	0.15	6	43	sh
Clacton	1.9	0.02	7	45	b	Newcastle	0.1	1.02	5	41	sl
Cleethorpes	-	0.06	8	46	c	Newquay	3.0	0.24	7	45	h
Colwyn Bay	-	0.06	5	41	c	Norwich	0.9	0.01	7	45	b
Cromer	1.9	0.06	6	43	c	Oxford	2.6	0.11	7	45	c
Eastbourne	0.2	0.27	8	46	r	Penzance	5.5	0.23	9	48	sh
Edinburgh	0.5	0.06	6	43	sl	Poole	1.1	0.01	8	46	b
Eskdalemuir	0.6	0.05	4	39	sn	Prestatyn	0.2	0.06	6	43	c
Exmouth	2.1	0.15	7	45	b	Ross on Wye	2.6	0.07	7	45	h
Fishguard	0.4	0.34	5	41	sl	Saunton Sands	1.3	0.16	7	45	c
Folkestone	1.3	0.33	8	46	r	Shrewsbury	1.5	0.02	6	43	sh
Glasgow	0.3	0.14	7	45	c	Skegness	1.6	0.16	7	45	c
Guernsey	1.1	0.24	9	48	sh	Southend	1.4	0.03	6	43	b
Hastings	0.4	0.48	9	48	r	Southport	X	0.26	7	45	r
Hayling I	0.6	0.04	8	46	sh	Southsea	1.3	0.04	8	46	r
Herne Bay	0.5	0.06	8	46	c	Stornoway	4.8	0.07	6	43	sh
Hove	-	0.08	8	46	r	Swanage	1.3	0.17	8	46	sh
Hunstanton	1.2	0.12	7	45	c	Teignmouth	3.2	0.12	9	48	sh
Isle of Man	0.8	0.18	6	43	r	Tenby	0.8	0.30	6	43	sh
Isle of Wight	X	0.08	7	45	sh	Tiree	4.3	0.02	7	45	sh

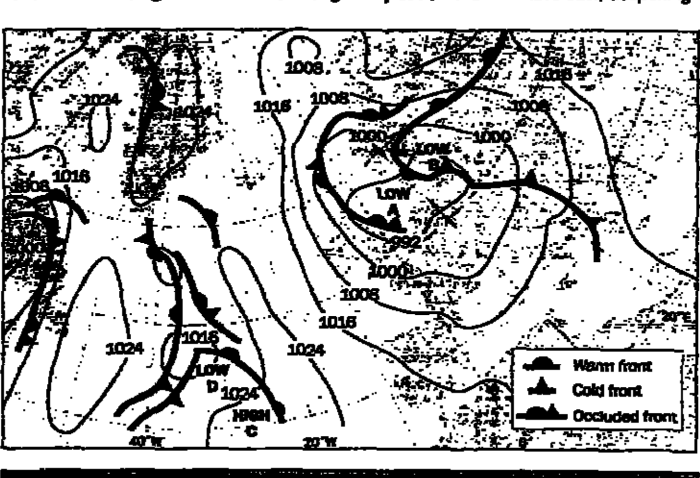
Extremes: highest day max: Jersey, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 3C (37F). highest rain: Newcastle, 1.02in; highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland, 7.5hr

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Cologne	11	52	c	Madrid	13	55	f	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	17	63	s	C'phagn	7	45	c	Majorca	15	59	c	R'nldsway	6	43	r
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Corfu	15	59	s	Malaga	17	63	s	Salzburg	13	55	f
Algiers	17	63	f	Dublin	7	45	f	Malta	18	64	s	S Frisco	11	52	s
Amstrdm	9	48	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melbourne	22	72	s	Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	18	64	s	Faro	16	61	f	Mexico C	20	68	s	Seoul	13	55	s
Bahrain	23	73	s	Florence	13	55	f	Miami	19	66	r	Singapore	30	86	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Frankfurt	11	52	c	Milan	8	46	c	Stockholm	-3	27	sn
Barbados	26	79	r	Funchal	15	59	r	Montreal	-1	30	c	Strasb'rg	12	54	c
Barcelona	15	59	c	Geneva	12	54	c	Moscow	2	36	c	Sydney	26	79	f
Beijing	14	57	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Munich	13	55	f	Tangier	14	57	c
Beirut	16	61	f	Helsinki	-4	25	s	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tel Aviv	14	57	r
Belgrade	19	66	s	Hong K	27	81	s	Naples	15	59	f	Tenerife	19	66	f
Berlin	11	52	r	Innsbruck	11	52	f	N Delhi	26	79	s	Tokyo	12	54	f
Bermuda	21	70	s	Istanbul	13	55	s	N York	12	54	f	Toronto	1	34	s
Biarritz	10	50	r	Jeddah	30	86	s	Nice	15	59	s	Tunis	18	64	s
Bordeaux	10	50	r	Jo'burg	29	84	f	Oslo	-3	27	sn	Valencia	18	64	s
Brussels	9	48	f	L Palmas	20	68	s	Paris	10	50	f	Vanc'ver	5	41	r
Budapest	15	59	s	Le Tquet	9	48	f	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	9	49	c
B Aires	28	82	s	Lisbon	12	54	d	Prague	12	54	f	Vienna	14	57	f
Cairo	20	68	s	Locarno	6	43	fg	Reykjavik	-1	30	s	Warsaw	6	43	r
Cape Tn	27	81	s	L Angeles	15	59	s	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	19	66	f
Chicago	-1	30	s	Luxembg	8	46	c	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Ch'church	17	63	X	Luxor	25	77	s	Riyadh	24	75	s	Zurich	14	57	c

Temperatures at midday local time Wednesday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will lose its identity as low B drifts slowly NE and starts to fill; high C will decline, drifting slowly east; low D will move east, deepening



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	3:09	4.1	15:17	4.2	Liverpool	0:54	9.2	13:09	9.3
Avonmouth	9:08	13.3	21:24	13.1	London Bridge	3:41	7.2	16:02	7.3
Belfast	0:47	3.2	12:59	3.5	Lowestoft	11:37	2.3	23:35	2.5
Cardiff	8:52	12.3	21:10	12.1	Margate	1:43	4.7	14:09	4.6
Devonport	7:32	5.4	19:48	5.2	Milford Haven	8:05	6.9	20:21	6.7
Dover	0:41	6.7	12:57	6.4	Newquay	6:57	6.9	19:13	6.7
Dublin	1:07	3.9	13:27	4.1	Oban	7:19	3.9	19:46	3.8
Falmouth	7:03	5.2	19:19	5.0	Penzance	6:27	5.5	18:43	5.3
Greenock	2:31	3.2	14:23	3.6	Portland	8:50	1.9	21:08	1.8
Harwich	1:30	3.9	13:51	3.8	Portsmouth	0:57	4.5	13:07	4.5
Holyhead	-	-	12:13	5.6	Shoreham	0:54	6.2	12:59	6.1
Hull (Albert D)	8:11	8.5	20:18	8.8	Southampton	0:36	4.5	12:46	4.4
Ilfracombe	7:50	9.1	20:08	8.9	Swansea	8:07	12.1	20:23	11.8
King's Lynn	8:14	6.5	20:15	6.8	Tees	5:32	9.8	17:43	10.0
Leith	4:27	5.4	16:48	5.4	Walton-On-Naze	1:24	4.2	13:46	4.1

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

XTC's agony over
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THE TIMES 2

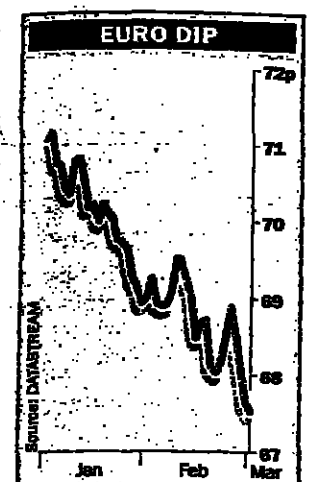
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 5 1999

Who's dumbing down?
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Euro hits new lows as bank spurns Lafontaine's plea for rate cut

ECB refuses to bail out Bonn



By Saeed Shah

THE European Central Bank refused to come to the aid of a sharply slowing German economy yesterday by leaving its key interest rate on hold at 3 per cent.

Official German figures showed its economy shrinking in the fourth quarter of last year. The Federal Statistics Office of Europe's largest economy yesterday reported that the country's gross domestic product contracted by 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of 1998, compared with the previous quarter, as exports weakened. For the year as a whole, the German economy grew 2.8 per cent. Steve Barrow, European economist at Bear Stearns International, said: "Germany is half way to recession. It could easily be tipped over the edge." Two consecutive quarters of negative growth represent a technical recession.

Mr Barrow said that the yearly figure for 1998 was boosted by a "sparkling" first quarter result.

Ahead of the ECB meeting Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's finance minister, yesterday repeated his pleas for an interest rate cut to help to pull his country away from high unemployment and the dangers of a deflationary spiral. German inflation stood at just 0.2 per cent in January, compared with a year earlier. Herr Lafontaine does not accept the ECB's argument that interest rates are already low enough. In an interview published yesterday he said: "Inflation in Europe is at an all-time low. With this situation long-term interest rates aren't low but are around 3.5 per cent higher than gross domestic product growth."

The ECB, however, views Germany's unemployment problem as a structural issue and believes that interest rate cuts would not help. The relatively high recent growth of M3 money supply and the weakness of the euro against other currencies also weighed against a rate cut.

The euro sank to new lows against both the pound and the dollar again yesterday, drifting below $1.08 and closing at 67.35p against sterling.

Germany has dropped broad hints that if the ECB is not willing to help to boost demand by cutting interest rate, it might resort to increasing government spending. In an attempt to boost demand, the German Government has encouraged generous wage settlements, which have come in over recent weeks at some 3.5 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

After yesterday's interest rate decision, Wim Duisenberg, the ECB president, said: "Wage developments are a matter of concern for the ECB, so would be the loosening of fiscal policy or a policy not in accordance with the Stability Pact."

He said that the outlook for price stability was unchanged, despite the risks to economic growth, and claimed that monetary policy was making its contribution to growth in the euro zone.

The French economy grew by 0.7 per cent in the last quarter of 1998 and Spain by 0.8 per cent. Only Italy is nursing as fragile an economic situation as Germany with fourth quarter GDP, due out next week, expected to be negative. By contrast, the economy in Ireland grew by as much as 8 per cent last year.

The sharp differences in economic conditions across Europe was one of the major arguments against the introduction of the euro and will give the single currency's opponents in the UK valuable ammunition.

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LINKS

WEBSITE: (European Central Bank)
http://www.ecb.int/

Weekend Money website:
http://www.times-money.co.uk

Royal & Sun under fire over dividend

By Gavin Lumsden

ROYAL & SunAlliance came under fire yesterday after the composite insurer revealed plans to return £750 million of surplus capital to shareholders, despite suffering a 39 per cent fall in profits last year.

RSA is to pay a special dividend of 48p as well as a final dividend of 15.2p. This helped to soften the impact of disappointing annual results and helped RSA shares to recover 5 per cent to 587p. A year ago they were 808p.



Bob Mendelsohn, chief executive, said RSA had finally completed its reorganisation after the troubled merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance three years ago and was now determined to use shareholders' capital more efficiently.

After a financial review RSA had concluded that it could reduce its capital base by about 10 per cent. A special dividend of £750 million would be paid, he said, bringing the total amount that the company had returned to shareholders in the past 12 months to £1.25 billion.

As part of the special payment RSA is proposing to reduce the number of its shares with a consolidation which will see investors receive ten new shares for every 11 ordinary shares in RSA they hold.

However, Tim Young, insurance analyst at Teather & Greenwood, attacked the plan, saying RSA was effectively mounting a share buyback on a 9 per cent discount. "The combination of the 48p special dividend and the share consolidation means RSA will pay 527p for shares currently worth more than 580p. It's a share buyback at a discounted price. They'll pay £750 million for paper worth more than £823 million at today's price. A straight buyback would have been better."

RSA insisted the payment was fair and ensured that shareholders' stakes in the company remained the same.

Group operating profits for 1998 slumped from £988 million to £602 million as severe weather losses and a sharp rise in claims almost halved worldwide profits from general insurance business to £352 million. Intense pressure in the investment and pensions marketplace meanwhile kept life insurance operating profits flat at £230 million despite a 6 per cent rise in sales during the year.

Mr Mendelsohn said he was unhappy with the results but said urgent steps were being taken to improve the situation. Yesterday RSA announced the sale of its US life business to Swiss Re for £240 million.

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SUZANNE HUBBARD



Sir Ralph Robins, left, chairman, and John Rose want to expand maintenance operations

Rolls-Royce boosted by demand for civil aircraft

By Adam Jones

BUOYANT demand for civil aircraft helped Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, to report an 18 per cent rise in pretax profits yesterday.

The company reiterated that it is gunning for another double-digit profit increase this year, despite an anticipated slowdown in the growth of orders as the aerospace market cools.

Rolls delivered about 900 engines in 1998. Profits were a record £325 million before tax. Turnover rose from £4.35 billion to £4.5 billion.

About 35 per cent of sales came from the aftermarket — the spare parts and support work that are the group's most profitable activities, although Rolls declines to disclose how much they actually make.

John Rose, chief executive, said the group wanted to expand further its maintenance operations. More joint ventures with the engine overhaul departments of airlines will be sought, following the formation of a repair company with American Airlines.

Mr Rose said Rolls would continue to collaborate with its two largest competitors, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, on specific projects but stated that a merger was very unlikely, despite the trend for mega-mergers in the aerospace industry in general. He said engine manufacture had already been rationalised to just three global businesses.

The profits include £40 million banked after the sale to BMW of the right to use the Rolls-Royce name on cars. Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of the aero-engine maker, played a key role in eventually securing the Rolls-Royce motor car brand for BMW, a partner on an aircraft engine project.

Mr Rose said the only exposure the group has to the al-Yamamah arms-for-oil deal with Saudi Arabia is through the supply of spare parts. The deal, which was spearheaded by British Aerospace, has been the subject of speculation because of falling oil prices.

The last Rolls-Royce military engines ordered by Saudi Arabia have been delivered. A writ issued against Rolls by an intermediary on the al-Yamamah programme is likely to remain dormant, the company said yesterday.

The order book totalled £10.4 billion at the end of the year, with £2.2 billion in the pipeline. Orders from Asia Pacific accounted for 13 per cent of the £12.6 billion total.

Underlying earnings per share were 16.91p (15.16p). A final dividend of 4.1p per share has been declared, making 6.55p for the year, an 11 per cent increase on 1997. The shares, which have risen from 186p last September, closed at 272¼p, down from 275p.

Commentary, page 29

IBM signs Dell deal

By Adam Jones

IBM and Dell have signed a $16 billion (£10 billion) deal that will see Dell use IBM's technology in its computer hardware, emphasising that even the biggest names in the industry are now reluctant to go it alone.

The pair believe that their pact is the largest yet struck in the information technology sector, which is undergoing rapid consolidation.

Dell will initially buy disk drives, flat panel displays, memory chips and networking equipment from IBM, in a tacit admission that IBM's technology is more advanced. The supply arrangement, which may be extended to other technologies, will not stop either side dealing with third parties.

Dell is already one of IBM's biggest customers. The $16 billion will flow through to IBM over seven years. The pair will also collaborate on developing new products and there will also be patent cross-licensing between them. IBM's component supply business has been growing by 44 per cent a year since it was formed in 1993. It brought in sales of $6.6 billion last year. There had been speculation that the deal would involve IBM's personal computer business, but this is not the case.

Both IBM and Dell shares rose after the deal was announced in the US yesterday. Dell shares were up almost $2.50 to $83.50 in late-morning Nasdaq trading. On the New York Stock Exchange, IBM shares traded at $175, up $8.25.

Funds shy of equities

By Caroline Merrell

PENSION funds called the top of the market last year and withdrew more than £10 billion from the London stockmarket last year. But their failure to reinvest means that many funds are now holding less than half their total assets in UK equities, against an average 58 per cent of their holdings earlier this decade.

According to Peter Warrington, a director of WM, the pensions consultant which collated the figures, pension funds sold UK stock because they believed that share prices were too high.

"They took the view that the stock market was overvalued," he said.

Pension funds produced average returns of 14 per cent during the year, equivalent to a real return after inflation of 11 per cent.

Returns on the UK equity proportion of pension funds, however, were 12 per cent, 2 per cent lower than the index. Pension funds underperformed the UK index because they were underweight in telecoms stocks and overexposed to oil exploration stocks, which fell by 61 per cent last year.

The best returns were shown by equity investments in Europe, which returned 30 per cent, and North America, where the return was 24 per cent. Over £6 billion of new money was invested in UK bonds during the year, while the return achieved was more than 20 per cent — only the second year in the past ten that UK bonds provided a better return than UK equities.

Business Today




Turkey shoot
South African exodus to London may be an exodus too far

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STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	6101.4	(+53.1)
Yield	2.60%	
FTSE All Share	2804.10	(+22.21)
Nikkei	14183.45	(+13.09)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9434.53	(+158.65)*
S&P Composite	1244.29	(+16.59)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	5.69%*	(5.70%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	[illegible]	([illegible])
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	115.43	(115.47)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6065*	(1.6142)
London:		
$	1.6078	(1.6177)
€	1.4847	(1.4818)
SFr	2.3609	(2.3563)
Yen	198.40	(196.66)
£ index	102.6	(102.5)
DOLLAR		
London:		
€	1.0825*	(1.0864)
SFr	1.4700*	(1.4812)
Yen	123.50*	(121.77)
$ index	109.7	(108.8)

Tokyo close Yen 122.60

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	$11.75	($11.45)
GOLD		
London close	$287.85	($288.65)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ... Page 28

Mirror outlines strategy

THE Mirror Group yesterday spelt out its manifesto for independence as rival bidders for the group face months of investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Raymond Snoddy writes).

As Mirror announced a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £100 million before exceptionals, John Allwood, the new chief executive, said: "We are not going to sit around like turkeys waiting for Christmas."

Mr Allwood said Mirror will concentrate on newspaper and magazine publishing. That means the sale of its 20 per cent stake in the Scottish Media Group, which could bring in more than £100 million, an additional £40 million from the sale of its former Central London headquarters and up to £15 million of savings from scrapping the relaunch of *The Sporting Life*.

The MMC is investigating approaches from two local paper groups, Trinity and Regional Independent Media.

City does not understand us, says Vickers chief

By Paul Armstrong

VICKERS, the marine engineer and tank manufacturer, yesterday accused the stock market of failing to understand its defence division, which provided almost 40 per cent of the company's revenues last year.

Paul Buysse, chief executive, said City analysts and investors did not appreciate the strength of the industry to the same extent as their counterparts in France, Germany and America.

"There is a negative perception here that surprised me," said M Buysse, a Belgian who took the top job at Vickers last year.

Analysts say Vickers's defence division is largely to blame for the slump in the company's share price from 236p in June to yesterday's price of 148p, down 1p on the day.

The value of outstanding defence contracts on Vickers's books has fallen to about £500 million from £800 million a year ago, mainly because of orders for the Challenger 2 tank being filled.

M Buysse said the division's best hope of winning a major contract rested with the Greek Government, which is expected to call tenders for a £1.5 billion-plus order within weeks. Vickers said it is also pursuing several UK defence contracts worth up to £100 million each.



Paul Buysse said analysts and investors in Britain did not appreciate the strength of the defence industry

Vickers announced yesterday that its pre-tax profit for 1998 leapt to £157 million from £19.4 million in 1997 after booking profits of £162 million on the sale of several businesses, including Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Operating profit before exceptionals was £42.1 million, down from £75.8 million previously, on the back of a 25 per cent fall in turnover to £892.5 million. On a continuing operations basis, however, turnover was up 2.6 per cent at £692 million.

A final dividend of 4.5p was declared, taking the full-year payout to an unchanged 7.2p.

M Buysse said a strong order book would ensure an "excellent" year for Vickers's marine division, which provided 22 per cent of last year's turnover, though the division's earnings from the offshore oil industry would dip because of the weak oil price.

PowerGen warns of £100m hit

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

POWERGEN gave warning yesterday that profits would be cut by at least £100 million this year because of poor returns in the electricity market and the forced sales of power stations.

The generator said £60 million would come off profits when it disposes of two power stations and that it had taken a £40 million knock in January and February from reduced demand for electricity and greater competition. There was also a £40 million reduction in December in power trading.

Some of the problem stems from a reduction in payments for keeping power stations available. This will worsen when the market is reformed.

PowerGen plunged to a £245 million loss for the nine months to December 31 after taking a £537 million charge for renegotiating expensive gas contracts. The City had expected a loss of £215 million. Pre-tax profits before exceptional charges fell 22 per cent to 292 million, compared with the previous nine months.

Earnings per share before exceptionals fell from 44.3p to 38.8p. The final dividend, payable on May 13, was set at 14.1p making a total of 24.1p, an 11 per cent increase on a full-year basis.

Eurostar cuts passenger aim

By Arthur Leathley, transport correspondent

EUROSTAR, the international train service, has given up its "unrealistic" target of increasing passenger numbers beyond ten million a year after seeing operating losses still running at £90 million.

New management brought in last year to rescue the lossmaking service has formally abandoned the founder company's original growth forecasts and is concentrating instead on revenue increases.

Although Eurostar cut operating losses last year by £40 million from the £130 million of 1997, it said that heavy discounting of tickets will be more limited in future. However, management is optimistic of breaking even by 2005.

Eurostar passengers increased by 6 per cent to 6.3 million last year, and revenues rose by 29 per cent to £350 million. The company, which has been separated from the Channel Tunnel rail link consortium, and is now run by National Express and British Airways, said that the revenue rise came on the back of significant growth in business traffic, especially on the London-Brussels route.

The company says that it is now reaching a yield per passenger of £62, well up on the £39 low in 1997, when prices were heavily discounted.

Hamish Taylor, Eurostar managing director, said: "The passenger targets that had been set were totally unrealistic and it has been demoralising to staff to see that we are nowhere near those levels."

BAA agrees Eurotunnel shops deal

By Carl Mortished

BAA has taken up the challenge to turn the Eurotunnel terminuses at Dover and Calais into airport-style shopping malls. The owner of Heathrow and Gatwick has agreed a contract worth about £100 million per year to take over the management of Eurotunnel's existing shops and extend the retailing space.

BAA will operate the retail facilities through World Duty Free on a profit sharing basis with Eurotunnel.

Brian Collie, BAA's retail director, said the UK and French terminal shops would generate about £100 million of revenue, assuming that duty-free retailing was abolished, as planned, on June 30. Eurotunnel generates about £190 million a year from its shops.

Pressure on oil explorers

By Carl Mortished, international business editor

BRITAIN'S struggling independent oil explorers will come under greater pressure to merge with rivals or sell out when the Oil Exploration & Production sector is abolished from the FTSE stock market indices.

FTSE International plans to fold the oil explorers into an enlarged oil sector where the seven British independents will be dwarfed by two multinationals, BP Amoco and Shell Transport & Trading. The seven E&P stocks are together worth just over £3 billion, compared with a combined value of £116 billion for BP Amoco and Shell.

The change will make it increasingly difficult for E&P stocks to attract investor interest. Caroline Cook, analyst at BT Alex Brown, said: "With no stocks in the FTSE 100 index, interest in the upstream looks set to wane."

Companies such as Lasmo and Enterprise Oil, currently in merger talks, may come under pressure to pay more dividends. FTSE International said the sector was too small to justify its continued existence.

The change is part of a radical overhaul to bring the FTSE into line with pan-European indices.

The All-share index has changed almost beyond recognition over the past two decades. In 1978, it boasted sectors such as Toys and Games, Textiles, Shipping, Hire Purchase, Mining Finance, Discount Houses and Overseas Traders.

Grocery bills to increase

By Sarah Cunningham

SUPERMARKET customers can expect to see their bills continue to rise despite the latest price war after evidence emerged that manufacturers of branded goods have been raising their prices.

Archie Norman, chairman of Asda, said yesterday that certain manufactuers have begun pushing up prices by between 5 and 8 per cent over the past three months. Lever Brothers, the producers of Persil washing powder, said it is introducing rises averaging 3.2 per cent, its first price increases in a year.

One food retailing analyst said he expects prices to begin edging higher. "There is some seasonal food inflation and the manufacturers price rises to take into account."

Arnault offers deal to Gucci

By Fraser Nelson

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has offered to call a truce with rival Gucci.

M Arnault, who has 34.4 per cent of Gucci, has offered not to buy any more shares if it allows an LVMH-nominated director to join its supervisory board.

Gucci, however, said LVMH had failed to allay its fears that M Arnault could still take control of the company without paying for a full takeover.

The negotiations come after M Arnault tried to sue Gucci for issuing new shares which have neutralised any voting powers his stake could command. On Wednesday, an Amsterdam court told the two they should try to negotiate. It froze M Arnault's voting rights and those of Gucci's new shares, asking them to return on April 22 if nothing is agreed.

Knives are out over dinner

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, formerly the advertising agency of choice for Mrs Thatcher's administration, has found itself embroiled in a scandal that threatens the stability of the New Zealand Government (writes Jason Nissé).

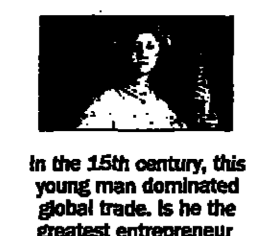
On August 31 last year Kevin Roberts, chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, was in New Zealand and had dinner with Jenny Shipley, the country's Prime Minister.

The two met the next day, and a few weeks later the New Zealand tourist board won a massive increase in its budget at a time when most other public services were facing cuts.

Most of this budget increase is being devoted to a NZ$30 million (about £10 million) advertising campaign, run by Saatchi & Saatchi.

Mrs Shipley has faced calls for her resignation in the New Zealand Parliament over what is being called "Dinnergate". The country's equivalent of the National Audit Office has launched an investigation.

Mr Roberts and Mrs Shipley have denied there were links between the dinner and the funding increase. They say they are old friends from when Mr Roberts lived in New Zealand.



In the 15th century, this young man dominated global trade. Is he the greatest entrepreneur of the millennium?
Read the arguments in tomorrow's
Business Life

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.68	2.50
Austria Sch	21.43	19.77
Belgium Fr	63.10	58.14
Canada $	2.572	2.384
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9031	0.8316
Denmark Kr	11.63	10.74
Egypt	5.70	5.09
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.21	9.43
Germany Dm	3.068	2.826
Greece Dr	504	465
Hong Kong $	13.29	12.09
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17951	12951
Ireland Pt	1.2240	1.1350
Israel Shk	6.86	6.20
Italy Lira	3051	2814
Japan Yen	213.81	196.28
Malta	0.672	0.613
Netherlds Gld	3.463	3.168
New Zealand $	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	13.37	12.43
Portugal Esc	310.26	288.23
S Africa Rd	10.66	9.70
Spain Pta	258.58	239.79
Sweden Kr	14.10	13.00
Switzerland Fr	2.514	2.296
Turkey Lira	594159	554667
USA $	1.715	1.572

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Biocompatibles extends warrants

BIOCOMPATIBLES INTERNATIONAL, the medical coatings company that must raise more money by the end of the year, is optimistically extending the exercise date of warrants that could bring in £20 million. The warrants, which were due to expire at the end of April, are exercisable at 180p and will be worthless unless shares in Biocompatibles climb at least £1 higher than their current 82½p. Biocompatibles, once valued at £1 billion but now capitalised at less than £80 million, intends to extend the warrants until December, but is also considering raising money by an issue of debt.

The company yesterday reported increased 1998 losses of £43.7 million (£28.1 million), but Crispin Simon, chief executive, said: "We are in the process of rehabilitation. We can make a lot of progress in rebuilding credibility." The focus is on the rising sales in coated contact lenses and blood vessel supports, which last year rose by 57 per cent to £9.5 million.

US Bill approved

THE US Senate Banking Committee voted to support a Bill to modernise the banking industry that Democrats said would draw a veto from President Clinton. The bill was championed by Phil Gramm, the committee chairman. It is one of a long series of efforts to overhaul Depression-era banking laws by breaking down barriers between banks, insurance companies and brokerages. Mr Clinton, who said on Wednesday he would veto the Bill, objects to what is seen as a weakening of requirements for banks to lend in poor areas.

Free Internet access

UK CONSUMERS will next week be offered free Internet access with free local calls for the first time, as part of a trial service. The service, both a marketing exercise and a test of public reaction to such an offer, will be launched by The X-Stream Network, the private Canadian company that launched a free Internet access service in the UK 12 months ago and prompted Dixons, the electrical retail group, to launch its own free access service, Freeserve. X-Stream said the free service would be available on March 8 only, between 6pm and midnight.

Prague losses mount

LOSSES at Prague Breweries, in which Bass has a controlling interest, quadrupled last year from almost £4 million to about £16 million as the Czech recession and brewery closures took their toll. Turnover was flat at just over £400 million, while volumes suffered a 6 per cent decline. The company had planned to raise funds through a rights issue. However, the minority shareholders have blocked the move and set up an action group to protect their interests. The group described Bass's management performance as "unacceptable".

Sanderson set to spend

SANDERSON BRAMALL said it has at least £20 million to buy rival car dealers and is seeking suitable ones in the Midlands and Yorkshire. The group, which last year paid £37 million for Charles Sidney, mainly sells Ford cars, but said that despite the US manufacturer's decision to buy Ford dealerships, it has had no approach. Its shares rose 17½p to 203½p, a seven-month high, as it unveiled 1998 pre-tax profits of £17.1 million, up from £15.6 million. Headline earnings per share were 31.7p (27.8p). A 4.23p final dividend makes 6.35p (5.52p).

Glycosciences database

OXFORD GLYCOSCIENCES will shortly launch the first of three databases of its protein expertise that it is developing with Incyte Pharmaceuticals, the American company that already earns substantial revenues from leading drug groups. Glycosciences is also working with Pfizer to identify proteins to measure the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease. This collaboration is potentially worth $50 million (£31 million). Increased research spending of £13.2 million led to increased annual losses of £8.7 million (£7.6 million).

Dorman appointed

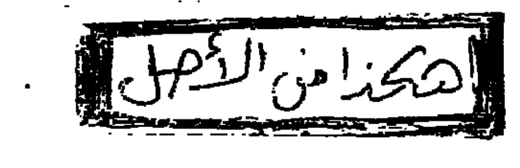
BT and AT&T have appointed David Dorman, former chief executive of Pacific Bell, the US telecoms company, to run their new $10 billion (£6 billion) international joint venture. Mr Dorman, 45, is currently chairman and chief executive of PointCast, the company that provides broadcast news on the Internet. It is the combination of telecommunications and Internet experience that has won him one of the top jobs in international telecommunications. The new venture will include all the international operations of BT and AT&T.

MFI sees sales slump

MFI FURNITURE yesterday revealed the extent of the trading problems that precipitated the departure of John Randall as chief executive last week. Sales at UK stores were down 20 per cent on last year in the four months to March 1. This was partly due to the company moving away from sales of small household goods. But sales of continuing products, mainly kitchens and bedrooms, were also down a steep 12.5 per cent in the same period. Total sales were down 13 per cent in the period, with total continuing product sales down 6 per cent.

Vehicle numbers fall

COMMERCIAL vehicle (CV) registrations in February fell 43.6 per cent to 12,462, the Society of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said yesterday. Every sector of the CV industry was down year-on-year. Registrations of light 4x4 utility vehicles fell 59.4 per cent to just 480. CV registrations so far this year are 27.4 per cent lower than for the first two months of last year. The SMMT blamed the March registration plate change and uncertainty over vehicle excise duty ahead of next week's Budget.



And now, not a word from our sponsor



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Today the Dome will echo with joyful celebrations. Fanfares will sound and new sponsors will be revealed. Sceptics will be assured that the money is veritably pouring down the Thames to Greenwich and that the Dome's demands on the public purse will not exceed the original budget. Mr Blair's man on the case, his old friend Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has declared categorically that the target of £150 million in commercial sponsorship will be reached.

But, when it comes to negotiating sponsorship deals, the New Millennium Experience Company has not been in the strongest of positions. In fact, it has become increasingly desperate, a fact not wasted on the commercial organisations on the other side of the negotiating table. They are not all buying their place in the Dome publicity with hard cash.

The Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, has already voiced his doubts over whether the Dome's sums will add up. An analysis of the sponsorship arrangements would be unlikely to provide him with comfort. For the figures that are being broadcast do not all represent new money destined for getting the Dome up and running. Much of the apparently pledged funds are headed for promotional campaigns up and down the country, which may not be so far removed from the sort of promotional efforts that the organisations regularly undertake.

The Dome accounts do allow £50 million for Dome-related millennium projects around the country. Maybe that money was always destined to come off the £150 million sponsorship target. But that would leave at least two-thirds of the sponsorship money heading towards Greenwich and that does not seem to be the case.

There is a degree of coyness on the subject which has prompted John Redwood, the Opposition spokesman on Trade and Industry, to table some probing questions. Among them, he might like to ask why Stansted is to be the millennium airport rather than the one down in Docklands. Could it be that BAA had determined to spend £1.2 million on the airport anyhow? Well, now that money is part of the £6 million proclaimed as BAA sponsorship. In fact, just £3 million is going to the Dome: the remaining £1.8 million will sponsor the Millennium Youth Games.

Marks & Spencer is a £12 million sponsor. That breaks down into just £6 million for Greenwich and £6 million for the Children's Promise project, a worthy fundraising effort but not one that will fund the Dome. British Aerospace is another £6 million sponsor, which is only committing £3 million to Greenwich.

The companies are not to be blamed for squeezing the best possible deals out of the organisers. They have decided, or been persuaded, in some cases even by Mr Blair himself, that they should back the big project. But they are being careful with their cash. Does advertising in the Dome guide count as sponsorship? It just might. In which case, Sir John has reason to fear for the public purse.

Euro's nightmare scenario unfolds

Euroland's nightmare scenario has not taken long to unfold. After just two months, Wim Duisenberg has felt obliged to concede that the economies so painfully corseted together by having to meet the Maastricht convergence rules already seem to be diverging once more. While countries such as Ireland and Spain benefit to an embarrassing degree from the big cuts from their previous interest rates, euroland's German powerhouse appears to be drifting ineluctably into a recession.

Mr Duisenberg is indulging in a classic piece of English understatement when he says that the German slowdown complicates monetary policy. Whatever may happen in the future, it is plain that a key argument of the euro's critics is correct. No single interest rate is yet suitable for the whole of the eurozone.

Oskar Lafontaine's call for "a policy mix for growth" has certainly gained credibility from the revelation that the German economy shrank by 0.4 per cent in the last quarter of 1998. Compare the slight rise in the worse-placed UK economy. Asia and Russia are hurting an economy where manufacturing still matters.

The ECB argues that Germany's troubles are structural, not cyclical, in order to justify its resistance to German bullying. Emphasising independence is clearly a vital plank in building ECB credibility.

A glance at the foreign exchanges shows that there is a long way to go. An 8 per cent drop against the dollar and 5 per cent against sterling was not what the euroland fathers had in mind for the first two months.

The bickering has not helped. Mr Duisenberg understandably called on politicians to help steady the ship and rebuild confidence in the new currency. The thought remains, not just in Herr Lafontaine's mind, that if it were not for the euro, the Bundesbank would be cutting rates now.

Supporting structural changes must take time. Strong nerves will be needed if the first serious challenge is not to blight the new currency permanently. But entrenched positions should be avoided.

Another pressure point will come in two weeks' time. Next month's ECB meetings look more crucial. By then the European Commission should have slashed growth forecasts for the region as a whole. That will give France and Germany ammunition to intensify pressure on the ECB to cut rates. They should not use it. At this stage the ECB is likely to delay a cut too long if it feels it would otherwise be giving in. Whatever it does, the resulting policy will cause trouble for some part or another of euroland, whose economies seem destined to diverge for some time.

Rolls-Royce and Robins reliant

There is a story, perhaps apocryphal, that has Sir Ralph Robins, the chairman of Rolls-Royce plc, the aero engineer, visiting an Eastern potentate. Sir Ralph arrives, only to be quizzed about life in the luxury car trade.

If he had been interested in truly world-class products, the royal would have done his homework and asked about aircraft engines instead. While Rolls-Royce cars live off a reputation earned decades ago, Rolls-Royce plc is about here and now.

Next year, 80 per cent of deliveries should be designs born in the past decade. In an industry dominated by the eternal success of the Boeing 747, this is impressive. Rolls has taken currency fluctuation on the chin. Neither does John Rose, the chief executive, waste time moaning about interest rates nor the productivity levels of the British workforce. His commitment to keeping the UK an aerospace powerhouse cannot be questioned.

Yet, despite wrenching market share from Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, Rolls is still the subject of suspicion in some quarters of the City. Analysts seem determined to find fault, some suggesting Rolls is selling engines too cheaply in the hope of a profit on spares and repairs, others even carping that Rolls might make such good engines that they will destroy their own aftermarket for spares and maintenance. Rolls's response is to let the figures tell the truth.

The company yesterday met its target of double-digit earnings growth. If it can do so again next year, investors might be forced to acknowledge that the company is doing something right.

Nott done

WHEN Sir John Nott took on the chairmanship of Hillsdown six years ago, the hope was that the former Defence Secretary would rapidly refine the extraordinary bundle of businesses that Sir Harry Solomon had assembled. Not quite. He waited until last year to demerge the housebuilder, Fairview, and Terranova chilled foods, driven to action by the failure of takeover talks with Unigate. Now Sir John is moving on. Hillsdown still combines furniture, poultry and Chivers jams. A dog's breakfast.

Williams in danger of FTSE exit

By Paul Durman

WILLIAMS, the security and fire protection group, is in danger of losing its place in the FTSE 100 list of Britain's leading companies.

Concern that Williams will shortly lose the support of index-tracking funds contributed to a 16¾p fall in its share price yesterday to 348½p. The company, one of the star performers of the 1980s, is now worth £2.5 billion — making it substantially smaller than EMAP, Energis, Misys and South African Breweries, all of which are currently outside the FTSE 100.

Williams has recast itself as a service group, and yesterday pointed to growth of 21 per cent in sales and 24 per cent in profits from its security systems and service group. Roger Carr, chief executive, plans that service businesses should grow from 40 to 60 per cent of the group over the next two years.

Some analysts remain sceptical. One said: "As ever with Williams, there's a quite interesting 'jam tomorrow' story. But fund managers are less trusting than they were ten years ago."

Underlying operating profits improved by 6 per cent to £302 million last year. The £170 million Williams made on the sale of its DIY fillers and coatings to ICI and of its NuTone business in the US enabled it to increase pre-tax profits from £254 million to £462.5 million.

Williams is expected to receive another £300 million from the flotation of Robbialac, its Portuguese paint company, and of its regional paint companies in the US.

The group said its continuing businesses, which include Yale locks, Chubb alarm systems and Kidde fire extinguishers, increased sales by 6 per cent and profits by 11 per cent at constant currencies. A final dividend of 10.04p a share lifts the total by 3.1 per cent to 16.29p.

Nott to step down at Hillsdown

By Robert Cole

SIR JOHN NOTT, the former Tory Defence Secretary, is to retire from Hillsdown Holdings, the troubled food group (See Commentary, *this page*).

Sir John has been at the helm of Hillsdown for nearly six years, during which time the sprawling conglomerate built by Sir Harry Solomon, his predecessor, has been dismembered. Sir John will be replaced by a non-executive chairman, Peter Jacobs, latterly chief executive of healthcare provider BUPA.

Hillsdown yesterday reported a fall in underlying pre-tax profits from £100.5 million to £80.2 million. Poor conditions in the poultry business were blamed for the decline.

Pay-TV merger is off

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

PLANS for a £14 billion merger of BSkyB and France's Canal Plus, Europe's two biggest pay-television operators, have been abandoned.

Two serious problems quickly emerged. One was disagreement over who should run the merged entity and the different management styles of the French and of the Americans, Britons and Australians who run BSkyB.

The second was the position of News International, owner of *The Times* and 40 per cent owner of BSkyB. A merger with Canal Plus would have diluted News International's BSkyB stake. EU regulations also needed to be satisfied.

Elementis sees tough trading

By Martin Barrow

ELEMENTIS, the specialty chemicals company that emerged from the restructuring of Harrisons & Crosfield, yesterday gave warning that the difficult trading conditions of 1998 had continued into the first two months of the current year and were unlikely to improve in the short-term.

Lyndon Cole, chief executive, said: "We are under no illusions as to the competitive conditions we face, particularly given the uncertainty over the outlook for the global economy."

The company yesterday reported a rise in operating profits from continuing operations to £61.5 million in 1998, from £44.7 million in the previous year. Sales from continuing operations rose to £534.2 million, from £471.5 million. Adjusted earnings per share were 9p, up from 8.8p previously. The total dividend is lifted to 5p a share, from 3.6p, with a final 3p.

Elementis has emerged from 18 months of restructuring, during which the company has divested itself of interests in seven non-core businesses, raising £626 million. The company has returned £402 million of capital to its shareholders and spent £277.8 million on the acquisition of Rheox, a specialty chemicals company.

Although the restructuring was designed to unlock shareholder value, the shares have not performed well. Yesterday they rose 1½p to 75½p, compared with 177p in mid-1998.

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Albright reacts well to takeover speculation

REVIVED speculative buying in heavy trading hoisted **Albright & Wilson** 14p to 109p.

Almost 13 million shares changed hands with talk in the Square Mile suggesting a bid of 125p a share is on the way. That would value the speciality chemicals group at £391 million.

Several large parcels of shares went through in late trading, including 2.28 million at 102p, 1.37 million at 103½p, and 900,000 at 103½p.

The speculators say the bid will come from across the Channel where rival chemical-maker Rhodia is flexing its corporate muscle *after its demerger* from Rhône Poulenc. Williams certainly looks vulnerable, having seen its shares tumble from 207½p a couple of years ago.

Brokers say trading conditions remain difficult and Albright & Wilson may struggle to meet the earnings target of 11p a share that some had forecast.

Share prices generally sported some useful gains but closed below *the best of the* day in spite of the strong opening lead for the Dow Jones industrial average in New York where investors became excited by news of the link-up between computer companies IBM and Dell.

The FTSE 100 index, up almost 70 points at one stage, eventually closed with a gain of 53.1 at 6,101.4. Much of the interest was concentrated among blue chips with the rise in the FTSE 250 index restricted to 27.9 at 5,314.8.

Total turnover was 1.14 billion shares, but investors remained cautious ahead of last *night's decision on European* rates, today's US economic data and next week's Budget.

The market seemed unimpressed with final results from **Williams**, down 16¾p at 348½p, and it now seems inevi*table that the* group will lose its position as a constituent of the top 100 companies when the steering committee meets next week. Pre-tax profits were up, but boosted by an exceptional profit of £176 million from the *disposal of several businesses.* Williams, whose chief executive is Roger Carr, said the results reflected the benefits of the Chubb acquisition.

Others under threat of losing their place as top 100 con*stituents are* **Tomkins**, *down* 5¼p at 215p, **Billiton**, ½p firmer at 133p, and **Safeway**, 3¼p cheaper at 252¼p. They are likely to be replaced by **South African Breweries**, 16p stronger at 456p. **EMAP**, up 58p at £14.18, and **Misys**, down 26¼p at 617½p.

Some bearish comments *from HSBC Securities, the broker,* left **Zeneca** 41p lower at £24.45. It has downgraded its recommendation from "add" to "reduce", reflecting the drug companies' exposure to patent expiries. It was also doubtful that products currently in the pipeline could deliver earnings growth.

HSBC rose 18p to £18.04 after some bullish comments. *Credit Suisse First Boston*, the broker, has raised its target price to £22.80 and Goldman Sachs is said to be positive on the shares.

The disappointing numbers from **PowerGen**, down 19½p at 767½p, also had a knock-on effect on rival **National Power**, *15½p off at 487p. Dresdner* Kleinwort, the broker, has re*duced its recommendation* from "hold" to "reduce".

High-flying **Select Appointments** *retreated 3p to 878p with* C.K. Miles, *finance director, unloading 100,000 shares at 880p.* It reduces his holding to 38,328. *The price has come up from a* low of 353p *since* October.

Britannic finished with a rise of 19p at £10.84 as Harold Cottam, chairman, picked up 2,000 shares at £10.90. It takes his total holding to 3,500 shares, or less than 1 per cent.

Druid Group was *22½p* dearer at £13.75 after John Pocock, managing director, sold 75,000 shares at £13.50. *He still holds* 679,665, or almost 3 per cent.

Tandem firmed ¼p to 2¾p after Harry Turpin, a director, sold 2.29 million shares, or 2.4 per cent, at 3p. John Hanson, a private shareholder, has sold 4.6 *million shares, or 4.9 per cent,* for an undisclosed sum.

Profit-taking left **Alexander Russell** 15p cheaper at 117½p. The group confirmed it had received a bid approach last month. Since then, nothing fresh has emerged to excite the speculators.

Computerland continued to reel from this week's profits warning with the price closing *11½p down at 89p.*

Tadpole Technology enjoyed one of the best performances of the day, climbing 4p to 13¾p. The group is carrying out tests with the water companies on a new portable information *system that is expected to* be a money spinner for the group.

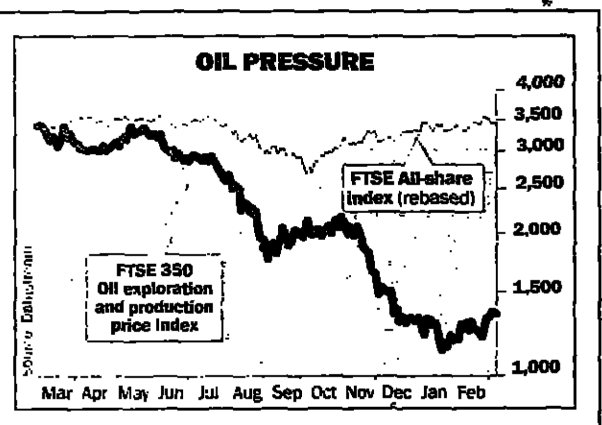
□ **GILT-EDGED:** Dealers reported an inversion of the curve yield as shorts recovered some of Wednesday's losses stemming from the absence of *an interest rate cut,* while longs gave up ground.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt eased 4p to £115.43 as a total of 31,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 *fell 44p to £144, while at the* shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 3p dearer at £106.07.

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares were sharply higher in late morning trade after news of the IBM and Dell technology pact *boosted the troubled high-tech*nology sector. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 158.65 higher at 9,434.53.



Roger Carr saw Williams shares retreat despite a profit rise. It is likely that the company will lose its FTSE 100 place



OIL exploration and pro*duction companies have* been hard hit by the collapse in the oil price; so much so that they will cease to exist as a sector from April.

From then on, they will *be lumped back in the wid*er oil and gas sector that already includes the likes of BP Amoco, up 45p at 902p, and Shell, 18¾p dearer at 349½p.

BT Alex Brown, the bro*ker, gave warning that ex*treme oil price pressure may precipitate further corporate change, as the stocks *attempt to maintain inves*tor interest.

Yesterday share prices picked up with investors convinced that this month's Opec meeting will thrash out a solution to production *quotas.*

The problem has become so acute, they argue, that some members no longer have a choice.

Gains were seen in Enterprise, 16¼p to 288p, Lasmo, *7p to 129¾p, and Cairn En*ergy, 5½p to 100p. British Borneo rallied 10p to 115p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9434.53 (+158.65)
S&P Composite 1244.29 (+16.59)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 14183.45 (+13.09)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9924.74 (+2.34)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 515.92 (−3.24)

Sydney:
AO 2885.3 (−4.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4678.72 (−18.85)

Singapore:
Straits 1433.41 (+17.60)

Brussels:
BEL20 3282.98 (−11.43)

Paris:
CAC-40 4087.99 (+83.83)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1335.60 (+18.90)

London:
FT 30 3742.3 (+14.0)
FTSE 100 6101.4 (+53.1)
FTSE 250 5314.8 (+27.9)
FTSE 350 2899.7 (+23.7)
FTSE Eurotop 100 2793.53 (+35.44)
FTSE All-Share 2804.10 (+22.21)
FTSE Non Financials 2849.33 (+23.67)
FTSE Fixed Interest 153.27 (−0.49)
FTSE Govt Secs 112.01 (−0.24)
Bargains 79411
SEAQ Volume 1140.5m
US$ 1.6077 (−0.0100)
Euro 0.6735 (−0.0013)
£:SDR 1.1745
Exchange Index 102.6 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI 163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Acorn Income Fund	101½	...
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100½	...
Gander Properties	7¼	...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108	+ ½
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	99	...
Luminar Warrants	320	− 10
NBA Quantum	110	...
South African Breweries	456	+ 16

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brancote n/p (10)	1½	...
Oxford Biomedica n/p (15)	2	...
Peptide Thera n/p (78)	17½	− 3½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Lorien	219	+ 35	+ 19.0
Beale	118½	+ 18½	+ 18.5
Albright & Wil	109	+ 14	+ 14.7
Elec Retail Sys	131	+ 16	+ 13.9
Oasis Stores	163½	+ 17	+ 11.6
Br Borneo	115	+ 10	+ 9.5
Sanderson Bram	203½	+ 17½	+ 9.4
Cannons Grp	175½	+ 15	+ 9.3
Torotrak	142	+ 12	+ 9.2
EFM	317½	+ 26	+ 8.9
Br Vita	230	+ 18	+ 8.4
Renishaw	370	+ 27½	+ 8.0
Johnson Fry	147	+ 10	+ 7.2
Royal & Sun Al	587¾	+ 36¾	+ 6.6
Bemrose	307½	+ 17½	+ 6.0
GKN	964½	+ 54½	+ 5.9
Enterprise	288	+ 16¼	+ 5.9
Abbey	280	+ 15	+ 5.6
Shell	349½	+ 18¾	+ 5.6
BBA	420	+ 22	+ 5.5
Bowthorpe	401½	+ 21	+ 5.5
Racal Elect	418½	+ 21	+ 5.2
BP Amoco	902	+ 45	+ 5.2
Ocean Group	841½	+ 40	+ 4.9
Ang Am Gold	2316⅝	+106¼	+ 4.8
Cobham	814	+ 35	+ 4.4

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Estates Agency	450	−100	− 18.1
Computerland UK	89	− 11½	− 11.4
Russell (A)	117½	− 15	− 11.3
Williams	348½	− 16¾	− 4.5
Misys	617½	− 26¼	− 4.0
Mitel	400½	− 16¾	− 4.0
RMC Gp	705½	− 28	− 3.8
NXT	470	− 17½	− 3.5
Mersey Docks	560½	− 19½	− 3.3
Schroders	1248	− 42	− 3.2

TEMPUS

Insured for tomorrow?

IS ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE really short-changing shareholders with its plan to return £750 million of capital via a special 48p dividend? According to critics, R&SA, by combining the payment with an 11-for-10 share consolidation, gets to buy 142 million shares at a 9 *per cent discount. The shares shot up to 587p* yesterday, but are being retired at 527p, so it looks like *daylight robbery, much as* it looked to Halifax shareholders when the former building society initiated a similar scheme.

A more conventional buyback arrangement could have been effected at a narrower discount. However, while it looks like robbery, it surely is not because no cash is going outside *the business. The cake may be changing* shape, but it *remains — special dividend included — the same-sized cake.*

That argument *is sterile.* Attention instead should focus on whether *R&SA management* is wise to shrink its capital base. Once the special dividend *is paid in June,* R&SA will have returned £1.25 billion to shareholders in 12 *months, and more* may be on the way.

The cash repatriation policy is welcome *enough,* not least because the share price reacts positively — as it did yesterday. But after more than a decade of savage cuts in premiums charged for general insurance policies, rates are slowly beginning to improve. R&SA is operationally *weighted to the general side* too. Yes, last year was dreadful for claims losses, *but for the first time in living memory* there looks to be a chance that general insurance revenues *will pick up,* and, to take advantage of the growth, R&SA *needs capital.*

Give *management the benefit of the doubt* for now, however. *Hold the shares.*

Williams

IT IS easy to sympathise with Roger Carr's frustration at Williams's *poor share price* rating. The group has great brands in Chubb, Yale and Kidde, and it is successfully building faster growing service businesses such as running alarm monitoring centres. Why won't the City see the much brighter future?

The trouble is that Williams has spent years casting aside its conglomerate past and presenting itself in new, fashionable lights. Yet nothing has worked. Why should the current emphasis on services intead of manufacturing be any different? After all, Williams's locks and fire extinguishers remain a long way from the innovative nich*es that has made* Hays *a star* of the business service sector.

Organic profit growth from Williams's security systems and services side was an *impressive 16 per cent last year,* and even the products side improved profits by 8 per cent. However, the group faces a challenge in moving the serv*ices/manufacturing split to* 60/40. In addition, the planned disposals are likely to dilute earnings.

The impending loss of FTSE 100 status and the *City's entrenched scepticism bode ill for the shares. But at* 14 times' forecast earnings, Williams shares are cheap for a company with an improving growth profile. The pros*pect of a bid from Tyco Inter*national, the American rival, limits the downside and is reason enough to hope Williams qualities will again be appreciated. Hold.

PowerGen

POWERGEN has had a tricky few months. First it has had to cope with greater competition as the privatised duopoly with National Power has gradually broken down. *Its forced divestment of two* power stations will cut into profit. Secondly, the relatively mild weather has reduced demand for PowerGen's mainstay product. Thirdly, the weather has knocked the *payments earned by genera*tors to keep their power stations on standby. Fourthly, one of PowerGen's power stations has been out of action for a sustained period.

This is all pretty bleak but *simple* bad luck *darkens* the picture. Weather cannot be legislated for and the station breakdown can be blamed more on *misfortune* than on mismanagement.

Competition in generating *is less easily dismissed.* That is likely to continue to stiffen. Moreover, the regulatory framework for electricity trad*ing is also to be overhauled,* which will reduce further the incentives offered to the generators' standby capacities.

But the cash raised selling capacity has enabled the firm to diversify. There will also be *more cash — maybe as much* as £1 billion — coming from further power station sales. This could fund more expansion or, possibly, special dividends. Hold the stock.

Mirror Group

REEL forward four or five months and it is likely that both Trinity and RIM will receive regulatory clearance *for* their "wannabe" bids for Mirror Group. In the case of Trinity it seems that disposals will be required, but that is unlikely to stymie its interest.

Mirror is currently trading at 200p. *The current price is* exactly the same as the cash *offer, now lapsed, from RIM.* Merger conversations with Trinity involved a shares and cash deal worth about 210p. *Both players are going to* have to come up with significantly more money if their acquisition ambitions are to bear fruit. Mirror is far from disintegrating as yesterday's results demonstrated. Going *forward it has a tidier strate*gy: concentrating on publishing and getting rid of assets such as the 20 per cent stake in Scottish Media. That can only support efforts to bid up the price not least because *Mirror can suggest it has* a credible independent future.

Mirror shares hit 250p last year when Axel Springer was nosing around. Serious post-regulatory clearance talking will take place around the 235p level but could go higher. It is a long, slow game and the impatient will be forgiven for wanting to cash in their chips by selling in the market. The *likely upside, however,* suggests holding on is the *best current policy.*

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	868 SLR	May	968-965
May	866-865	Jul	981 SLR
Jul	886-885	Sep	997 SLR
Sep	904-902	Dec	1019 SLR
Dec	925-923		
Mar	946-945		Volume: 2367

ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR (FOB), MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: [illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	11.05	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Apr)	11.65	+0.35
Brent 15 day (May)	11.75	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	13.40	+0.55
W Texas Intermediate (May)	13.45	−0.45

PRODUCTS ($/MT), IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd), GAS OIL, BRENT, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE: [illegible]

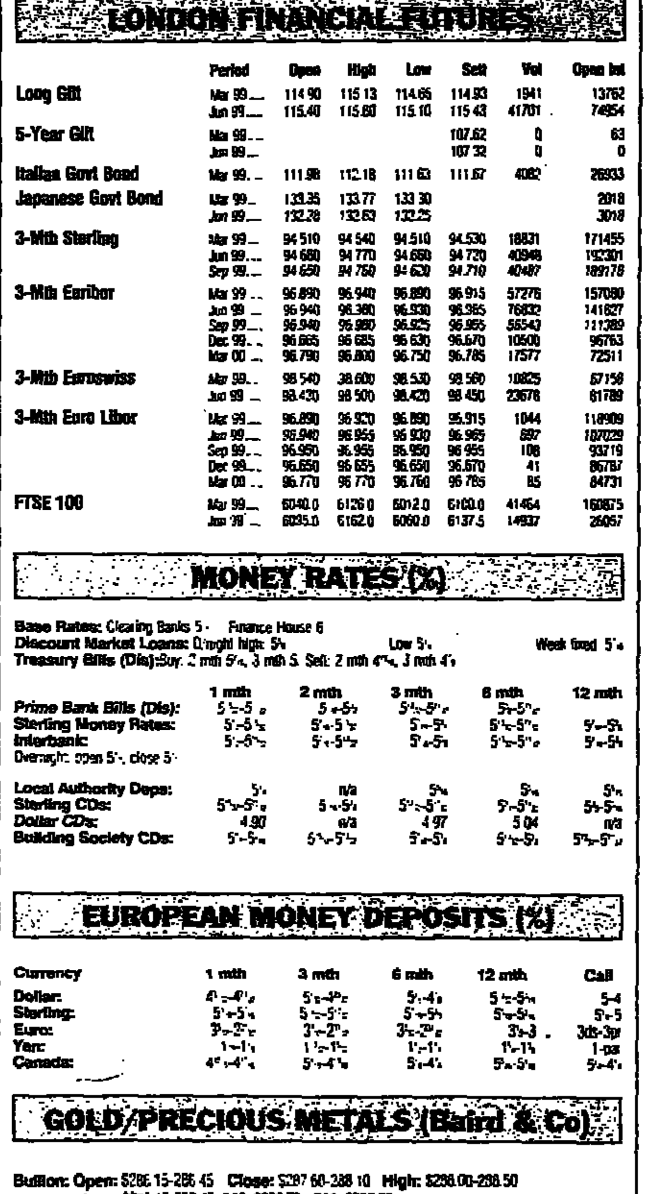
GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	71.90	Mar	73.75
May	74.50	May	73.75
Jul	76.40	Sep	74.25
Sep	75.30	Nov	76.50
Nov	77.30	Jan	78.50
Volume: 250		Volume: 0	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t), RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k), LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt): [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	114.90	115.13	114.65	114.93	1941	13762
	Jun 99	115.40	115.80	115.10	115.43	41701	74954
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				107.62	0	63
	Jun 99				107.32	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 99	111.98	112.18	111.63	111.67	4082	26933
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	133.35	133.77	133.30			2018
	Jun 99	132.28	132.63	132.25			3018
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.510	94.540	94.510	94.530	18831	171455
	Jun 99	94.680	94.770	94.650	94.720	40948	192301
	Sep 99	94.650	94.760	94.620	94.710	40487	189178
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.890	96.940	96.890	96.915	57276	157080
	Jun 99	96.940	96.980	96.930	96.965	76832	141627
	Sep 99	96.940	96.980	96.925	96.955	55543	111389
	Dec 99	96.665	96.685	96.630	96.670	10500	96763
	Mar 00	96.790	96.800	96.750	96.785	17577	72511
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.540	98.600	98.530	98.560	10825	67158
	Jun 99	98.420	98.500	98.420	98.450	23678	61789
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.890	96.920	96.890	96.915	1044	118909
	Jun 99	96.940	96.955	96.930	96.965	897	107029
	Sep 99	96.950	96.955	96.950	96.955	108	93719
	Dec 99	96.650	96.655	96.650	96.670	41	86787
	Mar 00	96.770	96.770	96.760	96.785	85	84731
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6040.0	6126.0	6012.0	6100.0	41464	160875
	Jun 99	6095.0	6162.0	6060.0	6137.5	14937	26057

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O'night high: 5¾ Low 5¼ Week fixed 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅛, 3 mth 5. Sell: 2 mth 4⅞, 3 mth 4⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5½-5	5⅛-5½	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅛-5½	5⅛-5½	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Interbank:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Overnight: open 5¼, close 5¼					
Local Authority Deps:	5¼	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	4.90	n/a	4.97	5.04	n/a
Building Society CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5½	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Sterling:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5
Euro:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3	3ds-3pr
Yen:	1-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1-par
Canada:	4⅞-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-4⅞

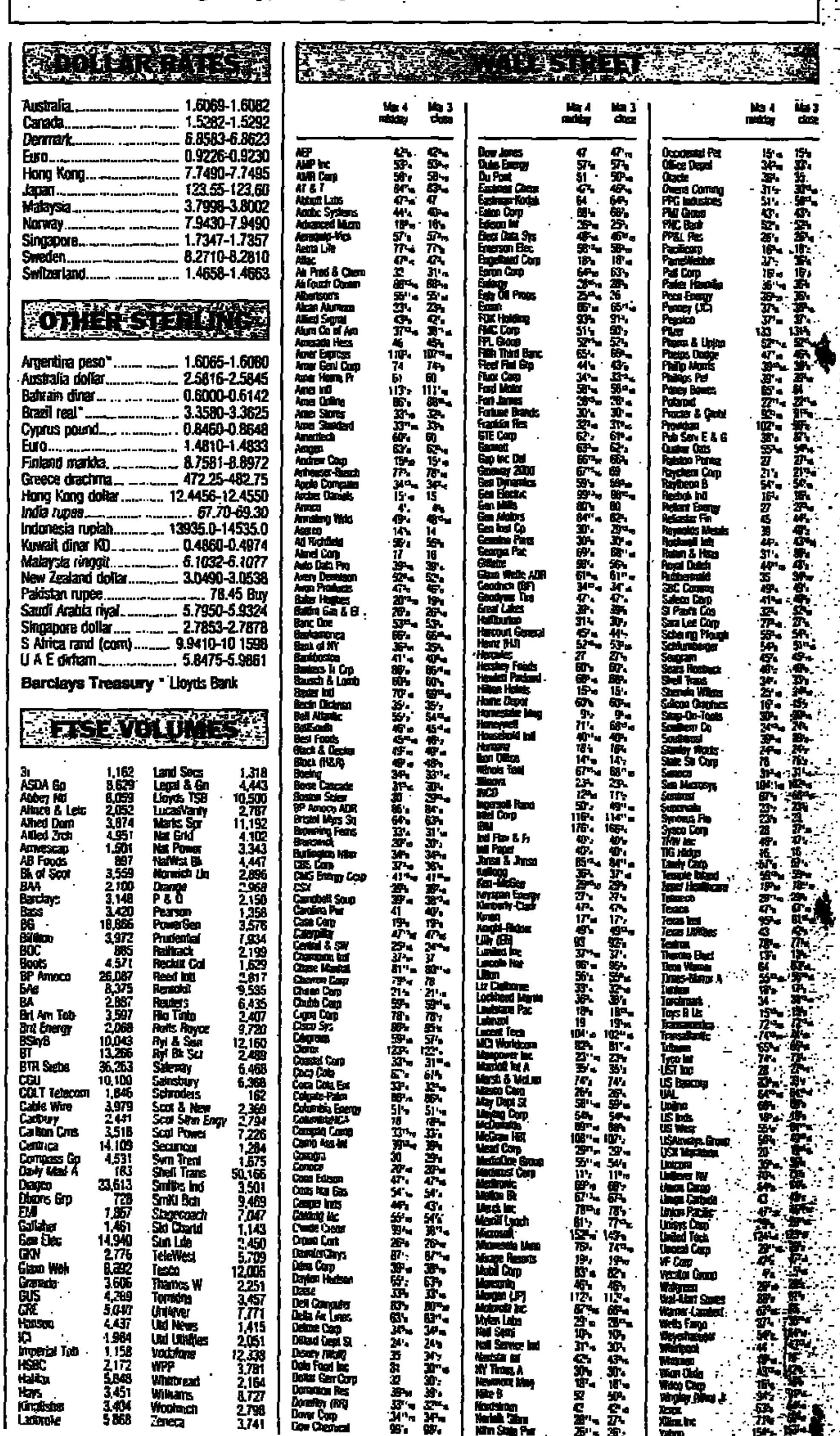
GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $286.15-286.45 Close: $287.60-288.10 High: $288.00-288.50
Low: $286.15-286.45 AM: $286.70 PM: $287.70
Krugerrand: $288.50-290.50 (£179.50-181.50)
Platinum: $372.00 (£231.35) Silver: $5.27 (£3.275) Palladium: $345.00 (£214.55)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 4	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.015-11.048	11.034-11.048	¼-¼pr	⅝-¼pr
Euro	1.4837-1.4857	1.4839-1.4855	0.13-0.15ds	0.37-0.41ds
Montreal	2.4491-2.4541	2.4513-2.4541	0.13-0.06pr	0.26-0.13pr
New York	1.6058-1.6082	1.6074-1.6082	0.95-0.75pr	0.180-0.150pr
Oslo	12.761-12.782	12.767-12.782	½-¼ds	½-⅝ds
Stockholm	13.278-13.312	13.290-13.312	⅝-¼pr	¾-⅝pr
Tokyo	197.50-198.50	198.30-198.50	1-¾pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Zurich	2.3547-2.3623	2.3595-2.3623	⅝-⅝pr	2½-2⅜pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.6069-1.6082
Canada	1.5282-1.5292
Denmark	6.8583-6.8623
Euro	0.9226-0.9230
Hong Kong	7.7490-7.7495
Japan	123.55-123.60
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.9430-7.9490
Singapore	1.7347-1.7357
Sweden	8.2710-8.2810
Switzerland	1.4658-1.4663

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6065-1.6080
Australia dollar	2.5816-2.5845
Bahrain dinar	0.6000-0.6142
Brazil real*	3.3580-3.3625
Cyprus pound	0.8460-0.8648
Euro	1.4810-1.4833
Finland markka	8.7581-8.8972
Greece drachma	472.25-482.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.4456-12.4550
India rupee	67.70-69.30
Indonesia rupiah	13935.0-14535.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4860-0.4974
Malaysia ringgit	6.1032-6.1077
New Zealand dollar	3.0490-3.0538
Pakistan rupee	78.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7950-5.9324
Singapore dollar	2.7853-2.7878
S Africa rand (com)	9.9410-10.1598
U A E dirham	5.8475-5.9861

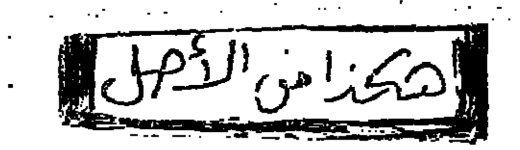
Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

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WALL STREET

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South Africa's corporate chicken run may turn into a turkey shoot

The exodus to London could be an exposure too far, says Jon Ashworth

During the apartheid years, London was big on Marxist exiles and light on home-grown South African delights such as Outspan oranges and Castle lager. Few would admit to holidaying in South Africa and no one supported the Springboks.

How times change. Today, the freedom fighters have gone home. Londoners can't move for South African labels and Cape Town has become the destination of choice. South African household names such as Anglo American and South African Breweries (SAB) have started springing up on the London Stock Exchange. For the estimated 300,000 to 400,000 South Africans living and working in Britain, this makes for a curious sense of déjà vu.

SAB, which brews Castle lager, is the latest in a line of big South African blue chip names to seek a primary listing in London. Anglo American makes its London debut in May, and Old Mutual, the Cape Town-based insurance group, could follow in June, pending approval from members, who vote on demutualisation on March 11.

All three are expected to win a place in the FTSE 100 index of leading shares, following a lead set by Gencor, the mining group, which spun off its base metals interests into Billiton in July 1997. Billiton, arrived with a bang, but has since seen its shares slide on weak metal prices, proving that membership of the FTSE 100 does not guarantee success.

The predominance of tracker funds ensures demand for FTSE 100 shares, but some UK fund managers are less than thrilled about this enforced exposure to South Africa — technically an emerging market. Such is the dominance of the companies involved that an entire chunk of South Africa — at a stroke — is being relocated to London.

The feeling among "ordinary" South Africans, white and black, is that the big boys are baling out. As one Johannesburg banker put it: "The economy has not been good in the last 12 to 18 months. The man in the street is saying: 'These guys are off to London and we are stuck here.' Among reasonably well-informed professionals, there is definitely a perception that these companies are getting out."

This, then, is a late-Nineties version of what used to be called the "chicken run". In the final years of Afrikaner rule, white South Africans who emigrated were branded cowards for flitting the coop.

As a student in South Africa in 1985, I remember the shock when a group of white businessmen broke ranks to meet African National Congress leaders in Lusaka. This was a time of extreme paranoia, when even a hint of subversion could lead to your being arrested and detained without trial. The late Gavin Relly of Anglo American, who led the contingent, became an enraged Pretoria's equivalent of "Hanoi Jane".

Business took the initiative then, and is doing the same again now, even if for economic rather than political reasons. With a selective loosening of foreign exchange controls, it was inevitable that Anglo and its bedfellows would go in search of new sources of capital.

Some see parallels with Hong Kong, from where Jardine Matheson moved its domicile to Bermuda in 1984 — the year Britain signed its agreement to hand back the colony to China. The listings of Jardine group companies were shifted to Singapore in 1995. The moves were greeted with anger in Beijing.

In London, South African companies have a stock market that is highly liquid and which gives them ready access to foreign pounds and dollars. Jan Newman, managing director of SG Hambros South Africa, said: "They are gaining efficiency in terms of raising capital and internationalising themselves."

Johannesburg has long been dominated by big-name players, such as SAB, Anglo American, Rembrandt and Gencor. Blocked from investing overseas, the big groups took stakes in each other, making for a notoriously illiquid stock market.



Graham Mackay is sensitive to charges that SAB has deserted South Africa

Sol Kerzner, the Sun City pioneer, with Naomi Campbell, the supermodel

This is changing as companies unbundle themselves, but not fast enough for some.

Gencor embarked on just such an unbundling exercise in the early 1990s, hiving off interests including Engen (the former Mobil oil in South Africa) and Sappi, the paper group. SAB is seeking to do the same, but remains typically South African in its diverse spread of holdings.

Money from all those Castle cans has been channelled into soft drinks, hotels and gaming and shopping centres. SAB owns Southern Sun, the hotels group built up by Sol Kerzner, the Sun City pioneer. Southern Sun holds the local Holiday Inn franchise, has a 50 per cent stake in a casino operator, and owns nearly 20 per cent of Edgars, a department store group.

Graham Mackay, SAB's group chief executive, is sensitive to charges that the company has deserted South Africa. "We would have languished in South Africa and lost our growth prospects," he said. "There will be a lot of deals in this industry and we either have to take part or be a spectator."

Anglo American is merging with Minorco, its Luxembourg-registered cousin, to create a £6 billion entity, Anglo American plc. Known for its gold, diamonds, platinum and coal, Anglo represents a broad cross-section of South African life. Its interests span forestry (Mondi), car assembly (Samcor), sugar (Tongaat-Hulett), construction (LTA), financial services (FirstRand), explosives (AECI) and wine estates (Vergelegen).

These are all household names in South Africa. The new-look Anglo will present itself as a global mining and natural resources company with related industrial activities. It is engaged in simplifying its arcane corporate structure, which is intimately bound up with De Beers, the diamonds group, and the interests of the Oppenheimer family.

Anglo says that the move to London will allow it to compete more effectively on the world stage and exploit new business opportunities. Listing particulars are due next month and dealings are expected to commence on May 25.

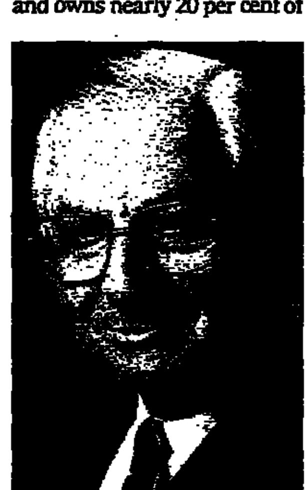
Old Mutual has negligible overseas interests, making this the most controversial of the newcomers. Fund managers have expressed unease about buying in a company so heavily exposed to South Africa. It has a token UK presence, owning two private client stockbrokers, Capel-Cure Myers and Albert E Sharp, and selling unit trusts, but relies on South Africa for 90 per cent of its sales.

Other companies with their eye on London include Barlows (industrial), Del Monte (food), Sasol (oil-from-coal) and a clutch of IT companies: Dimension Data (Didata); Comparex; Datatec; and Ixchange.

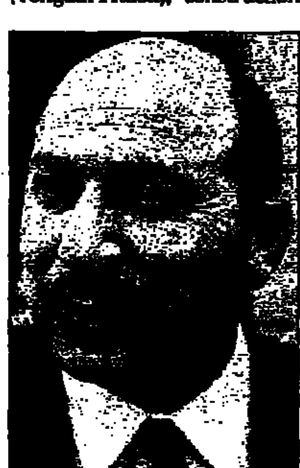
Interesting as all this is, one cannot escape the feeling that the only winners in this scenario are the companies themselves. While Anglo and the rest load up on pounds and dollars, shareholders back home remain trapped by restrictive exchange controls.

South Africa's economy is in poor shape, with little sign of the much anticipated foreign investment. Crime is as big a problem as ever, and Nelson Mandela's departure from political life heralds a fresh period of uncertainty. Elections are due on June 2.

There is also no guarantee that Pretoria will relax its grip indefinitely. Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister, has said that applicants will not automatically be granted the right to move to London. Those that do — like Billiton before them — may find their confidence in tracker funds has been somewhat overdone. The great corporate chicken run may yet turn into a turkey shoot.



Relly: met with ANC in 1985



Manuel: no guarantees

BUSINESS LETTERS

Outdoor team-building event is pleasing clients

From Mr Andrew Finan

Sir, *The Times* recently claimed ("Dramatic change to art of team building", Business Life, February 6) that organisations engaging in practical management development were turning away from outdoor team-building events to more artistic pursuits such as barefoot dancing and reading Shakespeare. Our statistics show otherwise.

Our company organises the Securicor Challengers Trophy, the UK's largest inter-business outdoor training event, and last year the number of teams taking part in the event grew by 56 per cent to 88 teams. This year we already have over 70 companies booked and are heading for a sell-out event by June. The number of women taking part last year grew by 270 per cent.

Our success lies in delivering a balance of physical, intellectual and practical challenges that are best tackled as a team and are within the reach of anyone who is reasonably fit. The formula works for our clients. Over 85 per cent of companies come back the following year, while 100 per cent say they reach their corporate objectives. We count Microsoft, BT, Lloyds TSB, Cable & Wireless, Cisco, BP and Orange among our customers.

Barefoot dancing and reading Shakespeare might be just fine for some. However, if corporations wish to build stronger teams then outdoor management training offers proven benefits and is certainly more popular.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW FINAN
(Director, Challenger UK Marketing, London, Sponsorship Bureau International),
Grosvenor Gardens House,
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens,
London SW1W 0BS.

Programme sponsorship continues

From the Director of Sponsorship, Carlton Television

Sir, Contrary to the article which appeared in the Media section of *The Times* on February 19, *The Sun* is continuing its sponsorship of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* for the next series.

Your remarks on ITV increasing the price are also incorrect: the levels of investment required for the show have not changed since it was first transmitted last September.

However, the relationship with *The Sun* has changed. In the first series *The Sun* was partner in assisting ITV to promote the show to potential participants. Since that time, *The Sun* has continued its association with the programme as a broadcast sponsor and has purchased the right to run its own interactive game through the paper.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PROSSER,
Director of Sponsorship,
Carlton Television,
101 St Martin's Lane,
London WC2.

Developers declare open Wharfare

From the Chairman of The British Land Company

Sir, We were amused to see the comment attributed to George Iacobescu, chief executive of the Canary Wharf Group, in *The Times* of March 2, that "I looked at the design of Plantation House (a City development). What happens if someone wants 700,000 sq ft instead of 500,000 sq ft?". Send them along. Mr Iacobescu, send them along — and we will be entirely happy to provide them with 700,000 sq ft on our site in the heart of the City, well away from the boon-Docks!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RITBLAT,
Chairman,
The British Land Company,
10 Cornwall Terrace,
Regent's Park,
London NW1 4QP.

BA action could resurrect old names

From Mr Richard Griffith

Sir, Your report on March 1 that Virgin Atlantic is to adopt the Union Jack in a new design for its aircraft went on to say that to stem its market loss BA had begun an internal restructuring which would entail dividing the company into short-haul (UK and Europe) and long-haul businesses.

Might I presume to suggest British European Airways and British Overseas Airways Corporation as being easily identifiable names for these two divisions which can be abbreviated to BEA and BOAC respectively for incorporation within the company logo.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GRIFFITH,
68 Grove Park Terrace,
Chiswick,
London W4 3JL.

Backtrack

RICHARD KALMS, son of Dixons chairman Sir Stanley Kalms, is poised to rekindle his working relationship with the electrical retailer — nine years after he quit as corporate affairs director to plough his own furrow.

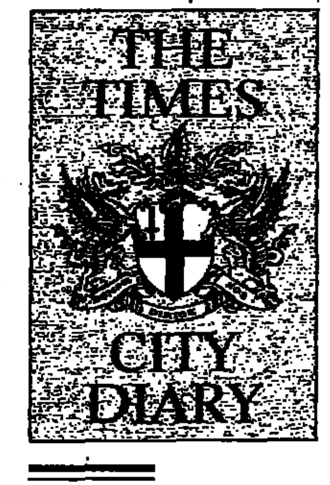
ITIS, a privately owned traffic information provider, has persuaded Kalms Jr to become a non-executive director alongside the former Tory Transport Minister, Steven Norris. His role will be to oversee the alliance announced yesterday between ITIS and Minorplanet, the quaintly named maker of vehicle-management systems that is listed on AIM. Specifically, he will help ITIS to persuade Dixons to stock its products, which include security tracking devices for cars.

Since he left Dixons in 1990, Mr Kalms has spent most of his time at Union Pictures, a TV and film production company. But he sold out last year to set up his own Internet consultancy called Hi Technology Ventures. "I consider myself the personal Internet adviser to Sir Stanley Kalms," he joked. "I tell him which buttons to press." And, by the sound of it, which car-tracking devices to stock.



"I don't like the sound of it"

WILDE Sapte, the City law firm, was celebrating on Monday night after its football team won the London Legal Football League, thus bringing to an end the dominance of Grays Inn, champions for the past four years. Wilde Sapte clinched the title with a 2-0 win over Slaughter and May — a particular pleasure for centre-half Bruce Macleod, the firm's grandly titled director of know-how, who previously worked at Slaughter and May and was up against several former colleagues and team-mates.



Arch rival?

I AM told that if there is one thing that William Hague hates it is Archie Norman reminding people that he once gave the Conservative leader a job.

But our Archie, who is not only chairman of Asda but also chief executive of the Tories (and apparently known to some at Central Office as "that Grocer"), cannot help himself. At the *Retail Week* conference yesterday he was at it again, confiding to the audience of several hundred: "I recruited him for a job once. I interviewed him at McKinsey and he worked for us as a consultant."

Norman went on to deny that he harboured any ambitions to become Tory leader. A sure sign that he is gradually becoming more of a politician than a retailer.

Cutting edge

NEWS reaches me that Sanyo, the giant Japanese electronics group, has developed a revolutionary new bread-cutting board called "Bread plus". This fine product is made from ABS plastic (whatever that is) and has cunningly designed sides to hold a loaf of bread in place while you cut it. On its product website, Sanyo points out that the board is "Y2K compliant". So, for that matter, is my old bread board, but I suppose it is not at the cutting edge of technology.

Telling word

AT yesterday's Mirror Group presentation to analysts, new chief executive John Allwood was asked whether any further thought had been given to changing the name of the company. Just at that moment a mobile phone — that of Richard Dale of Salomon Smith Barney — went off, giving a fine rendition of the William Tell overture.

"We're thinking of calling it the William Tell Company," piped Allwood without missing a beat — prompting the first round of applause for the Mirror Group from analysts for many a long year.

I HAD always assumed that Blooms of Bressingham, the garden centre chain owned by Flying Flowers, was named after its principal product. I couldn't have been more wrong. Yesterday's announcement that the firm is to be sold to a management buy-in team for £1.7 million informs me that Adrian Bloom, the gardening pioneer and the firm's founder, is to become honorary president of the new business.

DOMINIC WALSH

city.diary@the-times.co.uk




Norman: same old story

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	145.22	154.76	- 0.04	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	140.33	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	116.42	124.51	- 0.47	7.02
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98		
US Eq Safeguard	96.86	102.96	- 0.44	
Cash	953.50	959.27		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	436.09	463.91	0.12	1.90
UK Small Cos	91.86	93.24	- 0.86	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	107.18	114.63	- 0.73	1.89
Current UK Index	*24.187	*25.533	- 0.05	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	87.19	90.12	- 0.35	6.66
Global, Inc	44.01	47.07	- 0.14	7.95
International Funds				
American Gen	374.68	395.29	- 1.46	0.17
American Star	173.61	199.20	- 0.37	
GT US Index	*29.522	*31.103	- 0.49	4.50
European Gen	430.71	455.79	- 2.55	
European Strat	204.37	219.25	- 1.30	
Japan Gen	100.27	108.95	+ 0.65	
Asia Pacific	61.94	66.15	- 0.16	1.09
Pacific Strat	95.15	91.06	- 0.15	
Greater China	142.06	151.93	- 0.70	
Latin America	56.15	59.92	- 0.22	
Intl Growth	193.14	206.21	- 0.06	0.11
Balanced Exempt	185.32	191.81		2.16
Global Strategy	47.35	50.64	+ 0.14	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	83.17	88.47	0.45	1.72
Balanced Inc	74.72	79.48	- 0.41	1.72
Brit Excell	132.70	141.10	- 1.00	2.25

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	318.80	337.90†	- 2.50	0.99
-do- Income Dist	176.40	186.90	- 0.90	2.64
-do- Accum	607.30	643.70	- 3.10	2.64
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.11	49.50†	- 0.43	4.10
Growth Units	385.70	411.50	- 3.00	1.16
Bond	201.20	212.10†	- 1.20	5.00
Intl Growth	268.80	285.30	- 1.30	0.11
North American	417.50	442.80	- 0.40	
Far East	167.70	179.40	- 0.90	0.57
UK Smaller Cos	281.90	301.50	+ 0.90	1.12
European	136.20	144.50	- 1.50	0.14
Japanese Growth	29.74	31.50	- 0.22	
High Income	307.30	328.40	1.80	2.88
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7435				
American & Gen	369.10	389.90	+ 1.10	
European Inc	150.80	160.20	- 2.20	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	114.70	122.10†	- 1.10	2.04
Growth	762.00	811.50†	- 1.00	1.93
Income & Growth #	598.00	637.10†	- 1.10	4.38
-do- Accum #	992.70	1055.60	- 1.90	4.38
Japan & Gen	50.19	53.05†	- 0.35	
Hallmark Gwth	1736.00	1809.00	- 13.00	0.88
-do- Accum	2210.00	2303.00	- 17.00	0.88
Special Sits	175.10	186.30	- 0.80	1.00
High Yield	1967.00	2028.00	- 4.00	3.77
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	124.84	132.66	- 1.36	2.16
American Portfolio	204.66	216.70	- 4.11	0.37
European Portfolio	216.51	230.56	- 0.71	0.27
High Income	58.77	62.09†	- 0.45	5.97
Japanese Portfolio	47.34	50.14†		

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
Income #	325.55	346.32	+ 0.23	3.21
UK Growth	123.30	131.16	+ 0.12	1.18
Ecology	125.29	133.27	+ 0.54	0.32
European	306.60	325.09	- 2.15	0.19
Far Eastern	305.40	324.80	+ 0.70	
UK Special Sits	75.04	80.04	- 0.12	0.25
Fd of Inv Tsts	60.49	64.52	- 0.12	
High Income #	69.81	74.46	- 0.21	4.03
Financial Opps	79.35	84.63	- 0.22	0.72
Growth & Income #	56.94	60.72	- 0.58	2.14
Global Opps	56.14	59.82†	- 0.51	0.74

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	71.60	75.70†	+ 0.10	1.93
-do- Accum	156.80	165.90†	+ 0.30	1.93
Sth East Asia	225.90	238.90†	+ 1.40	2.01
-do- Accum	313.30	331.30†	+ 2.00	2.01
UK Equity #	82.40	87.10	- 0.30	3.20
-do- Accum #	243.40	257.50	- 0.70	3.20
UK Growth	1612.60	1705.30	- 8.10	1.47
-do- Accum	1848.90	1955.30	- 8.10	1.47
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 281 818 Enq: 01903 204 681				
European Growth	161.37	171.87	- 2.82	0.22

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 8000				
Bridge Income #	417.51	444.16	- 2.49	4.47
Esk Growth	148.42	157.83		0.50
Inc & Growth #	104.75	110.80	- 0.60	2.93
Smaller Cos	121.46	129.21	+ 0.94	1.51
Ever Spec Sit Inc	58.69	62.44	+ 0.10	2.33
Ever Spec Sit Acc	63.29	67.33	+ 0.11	2.33
Pension Growth	58.02	61.72	+ 0.12	1.43

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	64.03	67.27	- 0.26	2.85
Intl Equity Growth	114.40	121.36	- 0.42	0.95
N Amer Growth	219.97	233.17†	+ 1.36	0.26
Special Sits Growth	40.68	43.27†	+ 0.01	1.17
UK Growth	666.06	708.57	+ 1.28	1.55
-do- Accum	957.89	1019.03	+ 1.85	1.55
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1562.90	1586.90†		2.90



Equities enjoy late flurry

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	520	GKN	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	1.7	12.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	General Mtr	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.4	...
611	381	Hardys	[illegible]	- [illegible]	4.4	11.9
[illegible]	1444	Honda Motor	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	0.5	16.9
490	123	Laird	[illegible]	+ 3	6.2	7.6
297	169	LucasVarity	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.1	17.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mayflower	[illegible]	- 1	2.1	...
196	[illegible]	Syltone	100	- [illegible]	8.8	7.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	Toad	[illegible]	...	...	...
304	63	Torotrak	142	+ 12	...	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Wagon	39	- [illegible]	8.2	12.9

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	435	AB Food	[illegible]	...	2.6	15.1
270	115	Acatos & Hutch	[illegible]	...	5.5	...
37	[illegible]	Albert Fisher	[illegible]	...	...	3.9
285	155	Banks (S Cyr)	[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.2	7.9
613	[illegible]	Barr (AG)	[illegible]	...	4.6	9.6
46	[illegible]	Bensons Crisps	43	...	4.9	...
360	[illegible]	Booker	63	+ [illegible]	8.3	3.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bogie Bros	710	...	2.0	17.4
125	[illegible]	CPL Aromas	[illegible]	...	9.9	7.2

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

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WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

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Source: FT Information

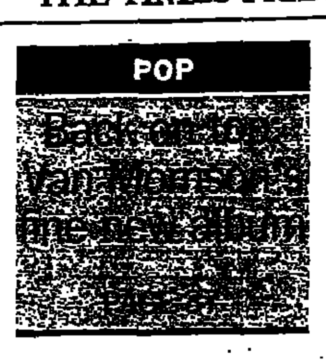
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MUSIC

Gidon Kremer takes his fiddle to the tango

PAGE 35

THE TIMES ARTS




POP

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

ANDRE PREVIN 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Showbiz, glamour and classical music combine in equal measure in this concert where super-diva Kiri Te Kanawa is joined by the high-profile conductor and pianist in songs by *Mozart, Strauss and Duparc.* Barbican (0171-638 8891). Sunday, 7.30pm.

TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM: The Festival Hall's musical journey through the 20th century reaches the 1980s this year. In the first of two concerts this weekend (tomorrow, 7.30pm) Sir Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in a programme featuring three composers representing the globalising musical trends of the decade: Lutoslawski, Takemitsu and John Adams. On Sunday (7.45pm) the London Sinfonietta and Voices under James Wood explore the theme of spirituality in pieces from *Steve Reich and Jonathan Harvey.* Festival Hall (0171-960 4242).

THE WAY OF THE WORLD: Sam Walters directs his repertory company in Congreve's matchless comedy of manners Orange Tree (0181-940 3633). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.



André Previn celebrates 70 with a Barbican recital

ELSEWHERE

MANCHESTER: The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House plays operatic gems by Verdi, Weber, Strauss, Puccini and Wagner. Soloists include Rita Cullis and William Dazeley. Edward Downes conducts. Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000).

OXFORD: Music by Bach arranged by Mozart provides the inspiration for Richard Alston's latest dance work, Slow Airs Almost All of Them. Premiered last month this is the work's second showing during the company's current UK tour. Playhouse (01865 798600). Tonight, 8pm; tomorrow, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material and new clowns, as well as his unforgettable finale. *Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).*

□ **BLUE HEART:** Caryl Churchill's pair of plays *Heart's Desire* and *Blue Kettle* express family disruption through tricks with words. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out Of Joint. Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800).

□ **THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE: THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY:** Tricycle Theatre's shocking account of the sequence of mistakes. *Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317).*

■ **THREE DAYS OF RAIN:** Elizabeth McGovern heads the cast of Richard Greenberg's play. Robin Lefevre directs this journey back to 1960. Donmar Warehouse (0171-369 1732).

◪ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production. See review, right. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800)

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN.** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves. *Apollo (0171-494 5070).*

■ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs. Duchess (0171-494 5075).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

BELOVED (15): *Oprah Winfrey is* surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by poltergeists, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong film fails, however, to get inside the festering heart of *Toni Morrison's Pulitzer-Prize winner.*

FESTEN (15): Thomas Vinterberg's bitingly black Danish farce features a disastrous family reunion. Shot with hand-held cameras it manages to look spontaneous, ghastly, and deliciously voyeuristic.

KINI & ADAMS (NFT): Idrissa Ouédraogo's African buddy movie is a mostly enchanting parable about two friends who share a dream but fall out over money. Good acting lifts it out of the pulpit.

THE 39 STEPS (U): Hitchcock's witty take on Buchan's ripping yarn is full of fabulous set pieces. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes *across Scotland pursued by scampering police* and ruthless spies. A romance and good hand-cuffing rarely feel more than a frame away.

CURRENT

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers *lose their sanity in the South Pacific* during the Second World War. An artistic masterpiece. With Sean Penn and Nick Nolte.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

TITANIC TOWN (15): Julie Walters excels as a pugnacious Catholic *housewife in this grim review of* Northern Irelands Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

URBAN LEGEND (18): Dire Jamie Blanks horror flick that slashes through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

Rufus in tooth and claw

Whatever the doubts about Rufus Sewell's Macbeth, at least one must congratulate him on refusing to pander to his fan club in the balcony. If his performance is limited, it is also utterly unsentimental. You would have to postulate a MacTamberlaine or a McSaddam to find a harsher usurper of the Scots crown.

But then this Scotland is itself an unvariegated and, until the English invasion brings a few dozen feet of blue sky, forbidding place. It is the land of the sunless noon or moonless midnight: black backcloth and walls, blood-red floor, shaggy lairds lit up by thinly glimmering spots, and so few props that, when stools, a table and six goblets appear for what one might call Macbeth's state *picnic, the stage seems perilously* overfurnished.

THEATRE

Macbeth
Queen's

John Crowley's production is direct, fluent and pacey, but so spare one wonders why Macbeth covets its contents. On Sewell stomps like Mike Tyson entering the ring, a glowering, hoarse-voiced figure *in black leather. He is so* much the ambitious soldier that his first great soliloquy comes across not as a tussle with his conscience but as a debate about his military preparedness. When he hears of Duncan's promotion of his son Malcolm to heir apparent, he packs so much menace into his declaration that this is a "step" to "o'erleap" that you feel a whole staircase has been *fatally o'erleapt already.* And from then on he sneers and angrily snaps at everything, from the thought that Banquo's progeny will one day be kings to his own insomnia.

But where is the "milk of human kindness" his wife fears will prevent him becoming a regicide? Well, it has been spiked with 140 per cent proof vodka. And where is the vulnerability, the inner sense of horror, the imagination, the richness of personality that makes Macbeth a tragic hero? Only after Sewell returns from Duncan's murder, wailing in pain as his bloody fingers writhe like a bunch of worms *fleeing from the mouth of a* pike, does one sense any of *that; and then it seems* pretty inconsistent. Otherwise Sewell is the dictator who rages uncontrollably at a ghost who in this production remains a figment of his fancy, and then descends into the state of snarling nihilism in which he dies.

It is a watchable but narrow interpretation that is not deepened even by his bond with Sally Dexter's Lady Macbeth. She *is a sensual, at times almost* feral woman, given to rubbing at her breasts, her hips, her crotch and her husband; but, to judge by the way she pushes him and he tugs her hair, its basis is rough sex. No wonder, perhaps, that he is soon ignoring her and she has become a stiff, waxen near-zombie.

Their bond is as unsentimentally handled as almost everything else. The witches are disappointingly unsinister maids in grey bonnets; but Peter Bayliss is a wonderfully dilapidated porter and Declan Conlon's fine Macduff the only seriously sensitive character onstage.

The evening is summed up by the moment Banquo gives Macbeth the diamond that the genial Duncan wishes to present to Lady Macbeth. Maybe my eyes were affectd by the murk, but I saw no jewel, no handover. You will find nothing very rich or exotic in this neo-brutalist production.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in late editions yesterday*



No room for sentiment: Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter as the royally unpleasant couple at the heart of a neo-brutalist *Macbeth*

Euripides in Ulster



EVEN as tough calls go, Agamemnon has a doozie. Somehow — and soon — he must decide between being a good father and making a blood sacrifice of his beloved daughter to secure good fortune for his people.

Colin Teevan's new version of Euripedes's *Iphigenia in Tauris* places this mythic choice in a land where people mostly speak with Ulster accents. The translation is not heavy-handed, but performed in the context of peace-process Ireland, one idea is clear: only the big sacrifices can bring the big rewards.

But while there is not too much room for uncertainty as to why Teevan and the director David Grant might want to see Euripedes's tale on a Belfast stage at this moment, not everything in their production enjoys the same clarity. They have difficulty, in the end, in seizing the strange currents and political correspond*ences in the piece.*

Certainly Grant goes to some pains to drop in contemporary references. He reconfigures the chorus, for example, as a hoard of spiced-up Billie clones, ogling the warriors of Ancient Athens as their 1990s counterparts might members of Boyzone, but it offers no real signal of what is to follow.

Teevan could have been far more cava*lier with the story, but it is the language* that seems to be his abiding concern. His *new text is seasoned with freshly coined* portmanteau words and snatches of Greek brusquely compressed into Ulster English. Sometimes this works, but occasionally the linguistic freedom he takes simply grates as the sheer weight of "throatcuts", "lifegones" and "fatherloves" slow the proceedings unduly.

As the man with the big decision to make Sean Hannaway is a less than imposing leader, while Morna Regan's Iphigenia is never satisfyingly colloquial. Stronger work comes from Donncha *Crowley, whose gossipy old man oils the* plot, and from Paula McFetridge, as the formidable but bested Clytemnestra.

Gary McCann's riveted steel set thrusting into the auditorium provides interesting spaces in which the cast can dance, crawl and thrash in despair. Paul O'Neill's lighting gives the huge structure the woozy fluidity of a land in flux.

LUKE CLANCY

Art from the heart

SINCE her last visit to Britain *in April 1995 Dianne* Reeves has become a great deal more confident. Instead of beginning her set as she did last time, with a self-conscious musical statement — "I am a woman. I am an artist. I sing no victim's song" — she allowed the sheer force of her voice (a wonderfully flexible, rich contralto with a three-and-a-half-octave range) and personality to express the same sentiment.

Not that she would have been blamed for showing apprehension: her bassist, Reginald Veal, missed his transatlantic flight and had to be replaced at short notice by London's own Geoff Gascoyne. Fortunately, though, he was more than up to the task.

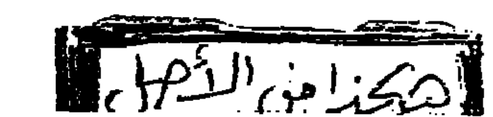
Gascoyne needed all the skill and adaptability at his command, for Reeves is not the sort of jazz singer who mines the familiar standards

JAZZ

repertoire. Even songs he might reasonably have been expected to be familiar with — such as *Morning Has Broken,* the opening hymn, Mongo Santamaria's *Afro Blue* and Jerome Kern's *Yesterdays* — were performed in tight, personalised arrangements that drew heavily on the rapport between drummer Terron Gully and percussionist Munyungo Jackson. Indeed, *Afro Blue* complicated matters further by constantly threatening to break from the jazzy lope of the Coltrane version into the *Cuban rhythm hinted* at throughout by Venezuelan pianist Otmaro Ruiz.

And then it got really difficult: Reeves embarked upon a series of intensely personal songs replete with spoken testifying passages, sudden flights of vocal fancy and luxuriously extended endings. A tender story of taboo love, *So Sweet, Too Young,* was followed by a clutch of reflective, philosophical songs, *culminating in two* of her best-known originals: *Nine,* which celebrates the imaginative play indulged in by children of that age, and a lengthy concluding paean of praise to Reeves's grandmother, detailing her preparations for Sunday church.

CHRIS PARKER



Us peasants are revolting, aren't we?



WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Will this be the dinner party from hell? The talk will range from "is the book dead?" to our old friend "the tabloiding of broadsheets" and that staple companion to the coffee and mints, "what's wrong with cultural elitism?". As for the talkers, if I merely whisper the words Bragg, Tusa, Adie and Humphreys — and add that there are 150 more where they came from — you will grasp the nature of the beast.

When these mighty minds have finished pondering "the tyranny of relevance" and lamenting "what happens to culture when those with authority and expertise bow to those without," they will move on to discussing the question on everyone's lips: "Is the rejection of a grand narrative in literature a way of avoiding the tricky question of quality?" We speak of little else in the pubs of Hendon. And on and on they will ramble, from 7pm tonight until late on Sunday evening.

For this is no dinner party. This is *Culture Wars: Dumbing Down, Wising Up?* — a conference at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith of such pretentious irrelevance to the lives of the British population that it could well win this year's Turner Prize. And the fact that its co-sponsor is *Living Marxism* — or *LM* as the magazine coyly calls itself in these consensual times — gives it a lovely extra twist of irony, does it not? If I were a Marxist living at the end of the 20th century, I would be very wary of telling others what's wrong with their culture. I would look on my own works and despair.

But the "dumbing down" issue is the chic cultural chatter of our day. So it's no surprise that 150 of our finest thinkers have been tempted to display their cranial wares on *LM*'s stall. After all, there isn't much point in being a middle-class intellectual if you can't spend a weekend moaning to your chums about how slobbish the working classes are, how the evil media are pandering to mankind's basest whims, and how educational standards have fallen to a level not experienced in these isles since the early years of Stonehenge.

The fact that on Monday morning most of the participants will return to comfortable jobs in newspapers, broadcasting or universities (and, in some remarkable cases, all three) is merely seen as adding a piquant authenticity to their discussions. For if the middle-class intellectual has another distinguishing trait beyond a penchant for prescribing what's good for other people, it is shameless hypocrisy.

Only three things are worth saying about "dumbing down". The first is that it has been regularly diagnosed for centuries, even if dreary American academics think they invented it in 1996, and civilisation hasn't come to a crunching halt yet. Indeed, my favourite example of needless doom-mongering comes from the world of music 250 years ago. When early 18th-century composers reacted against the contrapuntal complexities of Bach by producing tinkling little tunes over elementary harmonies, connoisseurs were horrified at this pandering to lowbrow taste. Yet within 20 years of Bach's death the boy Mozart had turned that new "banal" style into the most sublime sounds the world had ever known. Mozart, in other words, was a product of a "dumbed down" culture. There's a moral in that somewhere, but I leave it to the deep thinkers at this weekend's conference to work out what it is.

The second point is that although in a capitalist democracy the bulk of our culture is inevitably aimed at a mass audience, the fact is that "elitist" pursuits and "centres of excellence" not only survive but flourish. When I look around London and see its 40 theatres, its dozen top-flight orchestras, its grand museums, its huge newspaper and magazine industry, and its armies of designers, writers, singers, hoofers and artists, I don't see a city of dreadful philistine night. On the contrary, I see a place where the popular and esoteric exist cheek-by-jowl in a glorious arcade whose pleasures could not be exhausted in a hundred lifetimes.

My third point? It's a message to the glum nostalgists who will undoubtedly dominate the portentous proceedings in Hammersmith. If you believe something is worth preserving, go out and fight for it. Don't mope around, moaning about "the tyranny of relevance". Follow the orchestras' example. No cultural organisations feel more beleaguered than them. Their grants are puny, they are battling to win the hearts of a generation that has been denied a reasonable musical education at school, and they are snubbed by the sad middle-aged rockers running this Government.

But you won't find them bewailing our "dumbed down" nation this weekend. Tomorrow they launch the BT-sponsored National Orchestra Week. Not only will they throw open concert halls to all comers for rehearsals and talks. They will also venture out into the real world, into places where they will meet people who wouldn't dream of coming to a classical concert. They will play in railway stations, shopping centres, caffs and supermarkets. One orchestra has even done a deal with McDonald's in Grays, Essex; it will perform a "McCulture Evening" there on Monday. Risky? Of course. If the patrons don't approve, a quarter-pounder with cheese makes a formidable missile. But definitely worth the gamble. And the week also includes some vast education projects. In Stoke, 500 teenagers will perform with the BBC Philharmonic, while in Cardiff 4,000 ten-year-olds will sing with the National Orchestra of Wales.

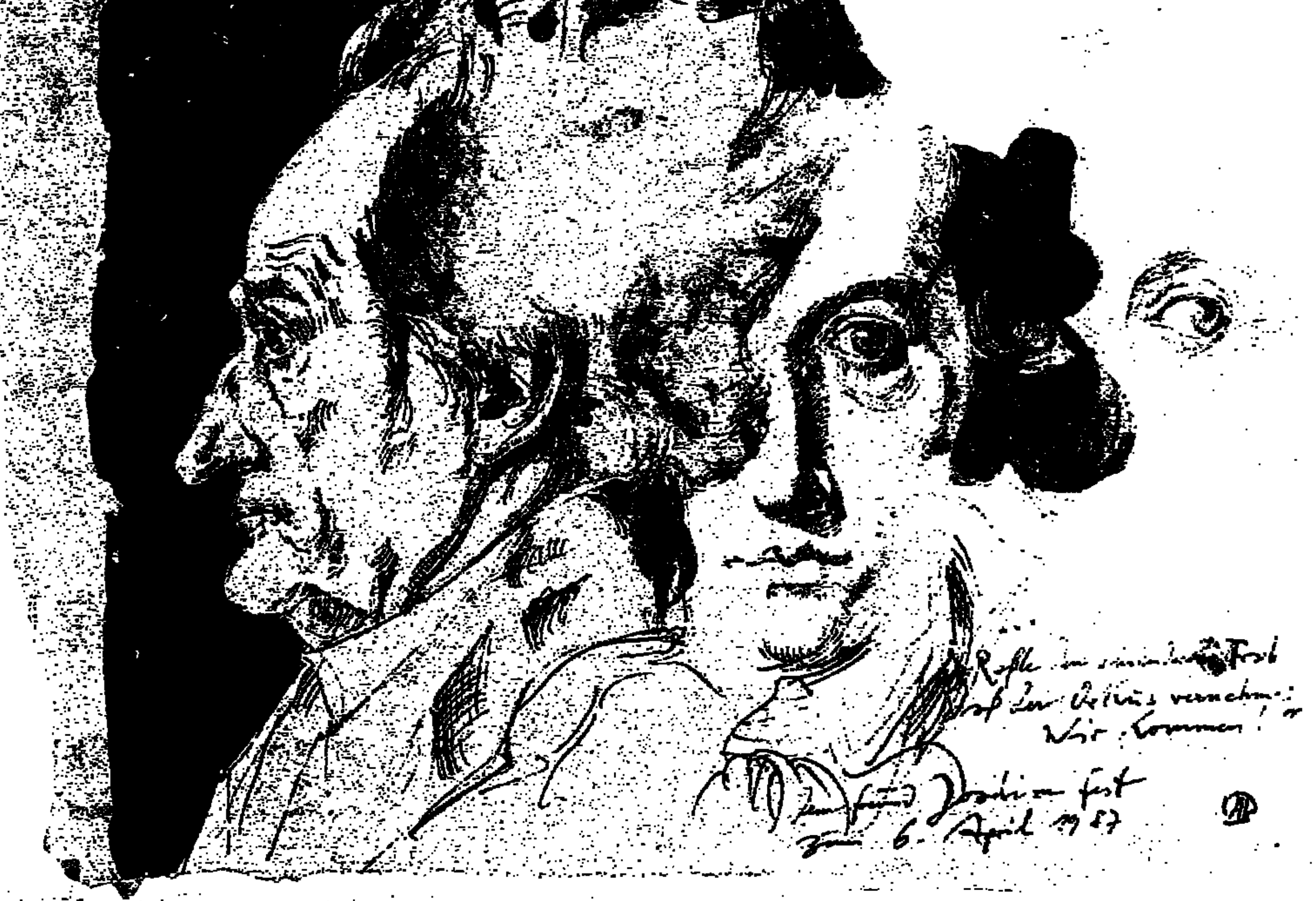
Is this dumbing down? I hardly think so. The music to be played in these unlikely venues ranges from Beethoven to the avant-garde. But of course the scheme does bow to that dreadful thing, "the tyranny of relevance". In effect orchestras are saying: "We can't watch passively as our audiences fade away; we've got to go out and play Pied Piper."

It may work, or it may be the last gasp of a dying breed. With all my heart I hope it's the former. But either way, it's a lot better than sitting around bemoaning how the country's gone to the dogs.

Shed a tear for the finest poet of all

MUSIC: This weekend Goethe the lyricist will take over London's concert halls. **Hilary Finch** reports

DRAWING BY HORST JANSSEN



"If you come knowing not a word of Goethe," says the organiser of one of this weekend's concerts, "his presence will, I hope, leap out at you from the music"

One of the anecdotes which Lieder-lovers love to quote most is the one about the youthful Schubert sending off a parcel of his settings of Goethe's poems to the venerable master in Weimar — and hearing nothing more. Return to sender. Aha, they say, even Goethe, pompous old polymath that he was, had no idea of the lad's true genius.

Perhaps he was just too busy polishing his quartz collection, working on his Colour Theory, writing *Faust* ... Or maybe he saw all too well that Schubert's music was metamorphosing his words, taking them somewhere way beyond, on into unknown territory.

The notorious snub to Schubert is one of the countless imponderables in a life which many writers have tried to penetrate imaginatively. For the English, Goethe — ever uncategorisable, ever German — can still seem a baffling, far-distant figure. His novels have never been bestsellers; his plays are seldom staged. We know the *Faust* of Gounod, of Berlioz and of Liszt — to say nothing of the *Mefistofele* of Boito, soon to appear at the Coliseum — better than we know Goethe's own. It is, in fact, through music that many of us know Goethe at all; and music is the focus of a festival this weekend presented by the Festival Hall and the Goethe Institute to celebrate this year's 250th anniversary of the great man's birth.

Born while Bach was putting the finishing touches to his fugues, and dying even as Wagner began to look out to the far harmonic horizons, Goethe had strong, often idiosyncratic, views on music. I asked the pianist Roger Vignoles, who devised tomorrow's concert, why two of the composers Goethe admired most — Zelter, an early songwriter, and Mozart — do not figure in the programme. Mozart, after all, was the only composer Goethe felt he would want to entrust with *Faust*.

"Yes," Vignoles says, "I imagine that was because of *Don Giovanni* — there's a good bit of hellfire there! But Mozart set only one of Goethe's poems. Zelter, though, embodied the way Goethe felt words should be set to music. Goethe definitely saw music as the servant of the word, rather than vice versa."

> ‘Goethe expected singing to be a deeply emotional activity’

Is this why we now find his songs much less interesting than Schubert's? "Well, we're used to the kind of liberties that a Schubert will take with Goethe. But I suspect Goethe would have found it excessive and over-individualistic."

We know something, too, of what Goethe expected of performance. The second half of tomorrow's recital focuses on *Wilhelm Meister*, a rambling picaresque novel about the travels of a young man in the company of a theatre troupe, a blind man and a strange young Italian exile. "Goethe would preface the songs he wrote for these characters with instructions that they be sung with the most heartfelt feeling," Vignoles says. "He expected singing to be a deeply emotional activity: he envisaged singers being moved to tears. Perhaps it was just part of living in a highly sentimental age. But we have to be careful: this sensibility can be different from what we now call sentimentality, known during the Victorian era."

So nobody will know quite how many boxes of tissues to bring for themselves or for the soprano Solveig Kringelborn, the baritone Thomas Allen and the narrator San West as they emote their way through songs and readings from *Wilhelm Meister*, scenting out the shifting responses to Goethe of Schubert, Schumann and Wolf.

For the first half of the evening, Vignoles has selected settings by Beethoven, Schubert and Liszt which, he says, "reveal the very heart of Goethe. I'm sure it was the sheer *energy* of his poetry which made it irresistible to these composers."

Schubert's famous setting of the horror-ballad of that fatal nightride through the forest is spurned in favour of the less well-known Loewe song. "Goethe might well have preferred it," Vignoles says. "Loewe preserves the poem's rhythmic structure much more closely, and follows the natural inflection of the words. Schubert's masterstroke, of course, is not only the galloping piano part, but his daring handling of the key changes. But Loewe builds up excitement by other means. He certainly suffers a lot in the shadow of Schubert."

In a Sunday afternoon of masterclasses, Vignoles will doubtless be encouraging his young charges to get to know Goethe, man and poet, from the inside, "to know where he's coming from, the language he speaks, as a means to develop their own interpretative technique". Having said that, Vignoles remains adamant that it is through music itself that we shall perhaps know most and best about Goethe. "He gave to every composer this extraordinary elemental energy. His life resonated through theirs. If you come this weekend knowing not a word of Goethe, his presence will, I hope, leap out at you from the music."

● Goethe: Life, Love and Music *is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tomorrow at 7.45pm; Purcell Room, Sunday at 2.30pm (free); Festival Hall, Sunday at 7.30pm. Special weekend pass available (0171-960 4242)*

Sibelius reborn

Lahti SO/Vänskä
Birmingham

Osmo Vänskä and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra had a most rewarding time in Birmingham. Symphony Hall was not quite as well attended on the second day of their examination of the Sibelius anatomy but six encores is an impressive total for two concerts devoted to some of the least familiar aspects of just one composer.

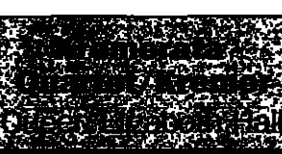
Their success was all the more remarkable because the Lahti Symphony is not the most glamorous orchestra of its kind. It is neither seductive nor brilliant in sound. But if the relatively small number of strings limits the dynamic range available, there is compensation in the consistent clarity of the textures.

Clarity was more important than ever on this particular occasion. In performing the long-neglected *Wood Nymph* and *Spring Song*, the rarely heard *Luonnotar* and early versions of *En Saga* and the Violin Concerto, Vänskä and the Lahti SO were presenting demonstrations as much as interpretations. Of course, they confirmed that Sibelius's final revisions to *En Saga* and the Violin Concerto were unquestionably beneficial. It was instructive, however, to hear the case for the early versions (with Leonid Kavakos as soloist in the Violin Concerto) presented not only in all clarity but also with apparently complete conviction.

It would have been even more instructive to hear the original 1915 version of the Fifth Symphony. Of course, when a conductor can make as thrilling an effect as Vänskä does in negotiating the awkward change of metre and tempo in the joined-up first movement of the 1919 version, it must be difficult to renounce the chance to do it. That is not the end of the work, however, and on this occasion it seemed that Vänskä and the Lahti SO *did* not have the stamina to push the advantage through and sustain the continuity to a full-scale heroic conclusion.

GERALD LARNER

A tepid tango



WHEN the programme compares a composer to Schubert, Duke Ellington, Mahler, a potency drug, Bertolt Brecht, and dirty clothes, you know someone is getting carried away. Astor Piazzolla's tango music seems to do that to people.

The hall was packed, the audience lured no doubt by Gidon Kremer's two Piazzolla CDs and the tango's new eminence at the height of world music fashion. Attention was rapt. Kremer walked on with his violin, and throbbed, swooped and lurched through two solo études. Other instruments gathered: a viola, a cello, a second violin. Then a long thin Lithuanian dancer, Eglé Spokaité, added her pennyworth to *Milonga per Tre*. Finally Marcelo Nisinman showed up with his bandoneon, spooning its sweet and sour sauce over the music.

The dancer was an obvious mistake. It takes two to tango, after all; passion and a rose between the teeth help too. But the concert also cast doubt, if not on Piazzolla *per se*, then at least on the advisability of spending a whole evening with Kremer's genteel interpretations of a popular music that began this century, rude and dirty, in Argentina's gutters.

Piazzolla himself removed some of the tango's heat by combining its sexual yearning with French refinement. Kremer's performances and arrangements cool the tango further. In his hands it becomes the perfect Post-Modern art form, all passion put in quotation marks, abandon reduced to neat string glissandos, beautifully judged but as predictable as lampposts.

Kremer's solo violin could do little; but his friends varied the tango's hesitating cadences with trills, scratches and little slaps to the woodwork. By the time of *Five Sensations*, however, even the most Post-Modern of tango fiends may have felt fatigue. Admirable musicianship, throughout; but for those not hooked on the Piazzolla drug, a mildly depressing evening.

GEOFF BROWN

■ POP OPINION

XTC's time has come

ARTS

■ POP INTERVIEW

Stereophonics take off

Meanwhile, back in Swindon ...

Andy Partridge has called off XTC's six-year strike, Caitlin Moran reports

Tied into a punitive contract with Virgin, XTC went on strike for six years. They downed tools — in their case, pastoral psychedelia, punchy, jungle-green pop and a pagan tilt at English mores — in 1993, and haven't released a note since. Their leader, the lugubrious Andy Partridge, retreated to his terraced house in Swindon, battled through an acrimonious divorce, built a studio in the shed at the end of his garden and started working on an album that he thought would never see the light of day.

"The more cack got thrown at us — the more the blinding scumstorm of negativity came our way — the more I wrote. The more acid gets poured on my motor, the more volts my battery has," Partridge says. He's balanced on the edge of his piano stool in his extraordinary parlour — the room is crammed with toy forts, woodblock etchings, dried herbs and naive pictures of huge fat farmyard pigs. It looks exactly as you'd expect the lead singer of XTC's home to look. He is, after all, one of the great British pop eccentrics.

"Some people would chew off their limbs to have these songs," he continues, correctly. "But I'm left with this longing for betterment. I need to murder those who influenced me. There are some big ghosts I still can't get rid of." He takes a sip of his almond tea. "Ray Davies just will not get out of my house. I have to kill Ray. I have to bludgeon Brian Wilson to death. If not kill, I certainly have to squeeze Burt Bacharach by the nuts.

"McCartney, I want to reduce to soya mince; and Lennon — well, unfortunately, someone's already done the job for me with Lennon.

"Apparently," he says, twinkling over his specs, "there's a fellow on the Internet who claims I killed Lennon."

Having inspired a whole generation of Britpop artists — Blur, in particular, were up to their neck in debt to XTC during their *Parklife* days — Partridge and Co were finally released from their Virgin contract in 1995, and *Apple Venus Volume 1*, their first album in seven years, is out this week. And it's a stormer: XTC are still at least five years ahead of the pack.

The first track is as awesome as you'd imagine a song called *River of Orchids* should be: a world-sized bank of syncopated pizzicato violins, offset by Partridge's yelps and moans. *Easter Theatre* continues his obsession with birth and decay, and comes across like Vaughan Williams scoring the creation of a new world; while *Greenman* sounds like the last scene in a film set on another planet, where the jungle-creatures prepare a victory feast after the enemy has been blown to pieces with space lasers.



Andy Partridge: "I have to murder my influences"

"Oh no! You accuse me of writing the Ewok National Anthem!" Partridge yelps, in obvious distress. "Please, no! I've had a lot of people accuse that track of being very Arabic; but it's very pagan, very English. There's a slight dromedary whiff about the percussion, admittedly; but it goes no further east than Norwich. And no Ewoks were involved."

Asked what kept him going through his self-enforced six-year lay off, Partridge comes back to his childhood heroes once again.

"I just want to outdo all these people who caused me to became trapped in this weird ideas world where all my ideas want to come out in music. It was never this way when I was a child. I didn't know whether I wanted to be an architect or a kite-maker or a bullet-biter or a painter: I just felt like an ideas person. But now I feel like I'm on these hot rails to Hades, where the orifice I've grown is a songwriting orifice that won't heal over."

Partridge was ten when the Beatles came along; and, as with every other member of his generation, his DNA was instantly altered. "I was there in my duffel coat and my shorts, thinking, 'Shall I scream? Girls scream. Some of the boys are screaming. Oh God, I don't know whether boys are supposed to scream at other boys or not.' " He settled for "grinding my knees together earnestly". He cultivated a Brian Wilson pudding-bowl haircut which, to preserve its geometry, he would cup in his hands as he slept.

"I just think everything to do with music is magic," he beams, twirling round and round on his piano stool. "And that was the awful thing about the whole Virgin strike. It wasn't so much the money. But it was the awful silence that got to me — that they'd stopped me from casting my spells on people. As long as I can be Merlin, I'm happy."

● *Apple Venus Volume 1 is out now on Cooking Vinyl*



Straight outta Cwmaman: After 11 months on the road, Stereophonics are glad to get home to mid-Glamorgan — "It's cheaper than therapy"

Pride of our valley

Stereophonics are the great Welsh hope of Brit rock. But, Paul Sexton asks, can they win over America?

Last week's Grammy Awards were a merciless indictment of the enfeebled powers of British popular music as seen through American eyes. On a night at which the Brits were *in the sort of form we showed* at the Boston Tea Party, only a few of our senior rock citizens such as Eric Clapton and Page & Plant rescued us from total whitewash, and it was up to young whippersnappers like Elvis Costello to represent our youth policy.

Twisting the knife still deeper, the current issue of *Billboard* magazine trumpets the countrywide revival of that old devil called rock as a viable force on the American scene. The story celebrates the big numbers now being returned on the *Billboard* 200 album chart by such bright young guitar-bearers as Goo Goo Dolls, Creed, Limp Bizkit and Everclear, as well as genre staples like Metallica, Hole and Korn.

Nary a Brit among them, and the tale on American rock radio is almost as grim. For even a whiff of respectability on *Billboard's* Modern Rock Tracks airplay chart, we have to grasp at the shirt-tails of such acts as Garbage and Placebo, who are not so much Brits as, well, Brit-ish. The only glimmer of hope seems to come in the superior grooves of Fatboy Slim and the techno-rock stylings of V2 label newcomers Tin Star, now gracing playlists with their song *Head*.

But among those British outfits that know one end of an axe from another, the one that seems ideally suited to a transatlantic crossing must be Stereophonics. Also signed to V2, the trio from Cwmaman in South Wales have risen through the domestic ranks with inexorable purpose in the past two years, bringing a raucous individualism to a guitar-bass-drums configuration that many thought was going down for the third time.

This week, the band troussered their latest Top Five hit, *Just Looking*, outselling Cher in the process and neatly teeing up next week's release of an assured second album, *Performance and Cocktails*, that looks set for an unlikely head-to-head with bobbysoxin' Britney Spears for British chart supremacy.

The album consolidates the premier division place they audaciously snatched with its predecessor, 1997's *Word Gets Around*, which has now clocked an aggregate of almost a year among our bestsellers. After a 1998 Best British Newcomer gong at the Brits and a mighty performance in front of 10,000 fans at Cardiff Castle last summer, Stereophonics last week booked an even grander day out, at Swansea's Morfa Stadium in July, and promptly sold 20,000 tickets in four days.

"The Cardiff show was the first time we'd seen 10,000 people there to see us," says the lead singer, Kelly Jones. "Before that, you'd do festivals and you'd just assume they were not there for you. After that, you get a lot more confidence." Enough for some quiet confidence that their particular combination of perspiration and inspiration will win them a foothold on the daunting peaks of the American range.

"We toured for five weeks in America last time, and it was hard work. Some of the drives were about 24 hours and you can't get off the bus," says Jones. "You go over there, and you see the Prodigy, and Oasis a little bit, but you listen to the radio, and it's like Smashing Pumpkins, Foo Fighters, Green Day, the same songs all the time.

> ‘In Italy I had to draw a map to show where Wales was. And Cardiff is full of Italians’

"But we had some good shows. We played the Viper Room in LA, and San Francisco and Boston were really good. The new record comes out there in September, so the record company has got time to get a decent plan together. We'll put in the effort if it will."

From a Welsh village to the American heartland would be another giant leap for Stereophonics, but there have been many of those since the trio became playground friends. Jones and Stuart Cable, the drummer, played together in bands even as pre-teens, adding bassist Richard Jones (no relation) and serving the statutory sentence grinding out covers in working men's clubs.

"I was 12, Stuart was 15 or 16, there were five of us in the band and none of us wanted to sing," says the personable Kelly. "Because my old man was in a band, it was assumed that I would have to be the singer. Up until 15, you're afraid to sing properly because you think someone's listening. Then you realise they *are* listening, so you sing properly.

"Stuart went into a glam band, I went into REO Speedwagon or something. Richard came in, he'd never played in a band before. We started doing covers of Neil Young and Bob Dylan, started listening to some decent music and then we started writing."

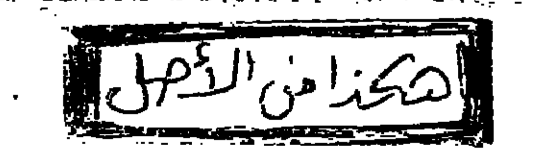
Stereophonics signed to V2 in the summer of 1996, and while it was soon clear that they would form part of the new Welsh spearhead, inevitably being coupled in "trend" stories with the Manics and Catatonia, they never lorded it over their local rivals. Unfashionable it may be, but their home is still in those showbiz-free, green pastures of Glamorgan.

"I've been pretty much everywhere now," says Jones, "and the cities are great, but when you're brought up in the country, in a small village, you get the best of both worlds. We're the type of band that tours 11 months of the year, and you appreciate it so much more when you're away. It's cheaper than therapy. I moved a mile down the road, and I've got to move back, it's that ridiculous."

Nor has Jones's head been turned by a more than attractive offer he received recently from Baz Luhrmann, director of such lauded films as *Romeo + Juliet*. "Apparently he'd seen me on a video in America and asked his casting director to try and track me down to do an audition for a leading part. But I don't think I could act, I don't think it's appropriate at the moment. Great offer, but I'd rather write a screenplay."

In any case, the road is calling again, and on their endless travels Stereophonics will take the opportunity to advertise the red dragon. "A taxi driver picked us up in Germany the other day. He said, 'Where are you from?' and we said Wales. He said, 'Ah, Richard Burton, the Valleys,' and we were like, 'Bloody hell'. But in Italy, I had to draw a map for a girl to show her where Wales was. And Cardiff is full of Italians."

● *Performance and Cocktails is released by V2 on Monday. Stereophonics tour Britain from April 15-May 2, and play Morfa Stadium, Swansea, on July 31*



■ NEW POP ALBUMS
Kula Shaker revitalised

ARTS

■ TOMORROW
Top gigs listed in Metro

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair on Kula Shaker's second album; plus, right, **Nigel Williamson** sees them in action

Karmic wheel of cool

KULA SHAKER
Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts
(Columbia SHAKER2CD £15.99)

HAVING emerged from the shaky aftermath of their million-selling debut album, *K*, with a renewed sense of purpose, Kula Shaker return to the fray with *Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts*, an album which should surely lift them above the "Is it real or is it retro?" debate. Even those who derided the band's use of Indian instruments and Sanskrit lyrics may be surprised at how well those influences have been incorporated on tracks such as *Namami Nanda-nandana* and *Radhe Radhe*, the latter sung by guest vocalist Gouri Choudhuryan against a joyful combination of Krishna-like chanting and mambo horns.

On the minus side, Crispian Mills does not exactly help the band's cause with lyrics that are once again freighted with all sorts of cosmic mumbo-jumbo. "You're a wizard in a blizzard," he yelps meaninglessly in *Mystical Machine Gun*, while in *Great Hosannah* he raves about prophets rising to greet "a new world".

But this is still an impressive effort, and tracks such as *SOS*, *108 Battles* and *Sound of Drums* bristle with a self-confident energy that renders them impervious to complaints from those who think they have heard it all before.

VAN MORRISON
Back On Top
(pointblank/Virgin VPBCD50 £15.99)

THERE IS only a thin line between an average Van Morrison album and one where his genius truly sparkles. The familiar ingredients are always there: the gruff voice, the gorgeous horn parts, the lyrics as evocative as mottled sunlight on an autumn day. But in keeping with its bullish title, *Back On Top* offers something more, making it Morrison's most engaging album since *Days Like These* in 1993.

It begins with *Goin' Down Geneva*, a sublimely casual, 12-bar blues that sets a rougher tone than that of his recent work. Along with a buoyant piano break by Geraint Watkins, the number boasts the first full-blooded guitar solo (from Mick Green) on a Morrison album in recent memory.

From there the singer, aided throughout by the superb harmonies of Brian Kennedy, proceeds down a familiar route, but with a distinct spring in his step. "What do you do when you get to the top and there's nowhere to go?" he ponders on the title track, a question which seems redundant in the context of such a superlative, minor-key shuffle as this.

If Morrison seems to be treading water on one or two of the slower numbers, the level of commitment in the performances never falters. And when he strikes out on the melancholy narrative of *High Summer* and the swinging, Sam Cooke-influenced *Precious Time*, the mica flashes as brightly as it ever has.

LINKS

WEBSITES:
Kula Shaker: www.kulashaker.co.uk
Van Morrison: //eden.vmg.co.uk/vanmorrison.html
Britney Spears: www.peeps.com/britney
Shawn Mullins: www.shawnmullins.com

TELEVISION:
Top of the Pops: BBC1, tonight, 7.30pm
Later with Jools Holland: BBC1 tonight, 1.30am

RADIO:
UK Top 40: Radio 1, Sunday 4pm

BRITNEY SPEARS
... Baby One More Time
(Jive 0522172 £15.99)

IT IS easy to snigger at all that "girl power" rhetoric which the Spice Girls brought to pop, but at least with groups such as them and All Saints you feel as if the singers are calling the shots in their songs.

With American teen phenomenon Britney Spears, whose debut album has been written for her, Tin Pan Alley-style, by various bespoke pop songwriters, there is a return to the formulaic R'n'B melodies and supine sentiments of a previous generation. "I don't know how to live without your love," she simpers on *Born to Make You Happy*, while much of the undoubted melodrama of the title track depends on the repeated injunction to "Hit me", diplomatically concealed by the three little dots in the title.

Still, by hanging on for a second week at the top of the singles chart, Spears has brought a welcome sense of perspective to Blur's perfectly pleasant new record, which could only manage a berth at No 2.

SHAWN MULLINS
Soul's Core
(SMG/Columbia CK 69637 £15.99)

THESE days it is an amazing feat to get an artist like Shawn Mullins off the ground in this country. But with his current single, *Lullabye*, in the Top Ten, the former soldier from Atlanta, who started out selling his self-financed recordings from a van, is the exception that proves the rule.

Soul's Core is an album steeped in the authentic imagery and ultra-sincere emotions that form the backbone of traditional American folk-rock songwriting. "My Grandaddy's hands are worn/From 50 years of growin' corn/Back behind the house where I was born," he mumbles in *Ballad of Billy Jo McKay*, sounding like a cross between Robbie Robertson and Lou Reed at their most lugubrious. It is fine stuff of its kind, but may prove too heavily concentrated for modern British tastes.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

		Title	Artist
1	(1)	Talk on Corners	Corrs (Atlantic)
2	(3)	The Miseducation of	Lauryn Hill (Columbia)
3	(2)	I've Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
4	(5)	This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
5	(4)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fatboy Slim (Skint)
6	(7)	Forgiven, Not Forgotten	Corrs (Atlantic)
7	(9)	Step One	Steps (Jive)
8	(8)	Life Thru a Lens	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
9	(6)	No Exit	Blondie (RCA/Beyond)
10	(13)	Gran Turismo	Cardigans (Stockholm)

COPYRIGHT CIN ● *Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498



The comeback kids: Kula Shaker have shrugged off accusations of cultural opportunism and retro obsessions on *Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts*

Mystical musical mash

Kula Shaker took over the tiny basement that is the 100 Club in Oxford Street for the first of three club dates in advance of their full British tour. Three years ago the band's debut album, *K*, unveiled a heady, patchouli-laden mix of 1960s psychedelic pop that sounded as if the Beatles were still hanging out with the Maharishi and Syd Barrett had never left Pink Floyd. It appealed to old hippies and young ravers alike, entered the album chart at No 1 and won a Brit award. The band's leader, Crispian Mills, immediately became a media darling, fêted not least because of his theatrical connections as the son of Hayley Mills and grandson of Sir John Mills.

Yet the backlash was swift. Mills did himself no favours with some ill-advised comments ("Hitler knew a lot more than he made out") and suddenly the band were receiving the cold shoulder, widely denounced as phoney purveyors of pseudo-mystical mumbo-jumbo. So their second album, *Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts* (see review, left) finds them at a crunch point in their short career.

On this showing they remain stuck steadfastly in some rose-tinted vision of the 1960s hippie idyll. To their fans they are cosmic visionaries, to their detractors merely sad, middle-class copycats and this tour is not going to change minds either way. The material from the new album, such as *SOS* and *Mystical Machine Gun*, was washed in the same psychedelic primary colours as the hit singles from the first album, *Hey Dude* and *Govinda*.

What saves the band from mere pastiche is Mills, who was a charismatic showman, despite some incomprehensible ranting about the significance of it being a full moon.

Apparently he likes to consult his astrological chart before making a move. On this night, at least, the stars must have been twinkling benignly.

Flying a funky flag

JAZZ ALBUMS

LENNY WHITE
Edge
(Hip Bop HIBD 8019)

IF drummer Lenny White's mission is to prove that funk can embrace as rich a variety of rhythms, sounds and textures as its snooty cousin jazz, he succeeds triumphantly on this immediately appealing yet subtly crafted album. The opening track, *Raiders in the Temple of Boom*, sounds like an escape from a late Miles Davis album, while the treacly bass-clarinet of Bennie Maupin recalls *Bitches Brew*.

Led Zeppelin's *Kashmir* is intriguingly filtered through a Sly Stone-like arrangement; rap, fusion, and even the odd scrap of straightahead jazz are also thrown into the mix, plus samples of everything from Bulgarian choirs to African traditional music.

With a stellar band — Patrice Rushen, Foley McCreary, Victor Bailey and Danny Walsh are all involved — and White's meticulous production, this is a classy album that should appeal even to the hitherto funk-allergic.

TONY REMY'S BLUE VIBE
Jammin' at the 12 Bar Club
(Alltone ALTR002)

EVER since the mid-1980s, when guitarist Tony Remy was playing with Desperately Seeking Fusion, those impressed by the fluidity and visceral impact of his live sound have found it difficult, on the evidence of his records, to convince the sceptical that he is among Britain's most exciting soloists on any instrument. The release of these seven live bluesy jams should made their task a great deal easier.

Of the album's 70-plus minutes, more than an hour is devoted to Remy's inexhaustibly inventive guitar, from blisteringly eloquent 12-bar blues to fierce, punchy funk, bringing to mind not only rock icons such as Hendrix but also later, jazzier players such as Mike Stern and John Scofield. With support from drummer Pete Lewinson and a selection of bassists, plus the occasional sweetly agile solo from saxophonist Jean Toussaint, this is, in Remy's words, his chance to "get up and wail, and worry about it next time round".

CHRIS PARKER

Last of the soul brokers

BLUES ALBUMS

Malaco Records, from Jackson, Mississippi, is one of the last of the independent record companies that have helped to shape America's musical tastes. It has kept its independence not by chasing pop glory — only three of its records have ever made the American Top Ten — but by concentrating on the market it knows best: contemporary Southern rhythm and blues, soul and gospel.

The six-CD box set *The Last Soul Company* (Malaco MCD30) celebrates the work of the company which "makes black music for black people". The label enjoyed its first big success in 1970 with an infectious dance record called *Groove Me*, by New Orleans singer **King Floyd**. That was followed by another dance smash, **Jean Knight's** *Mr Big Stuff*. Then, as the company grew, came country-influenced soul singers such as Dorothy Moore, established soul stars such as **ZZ Hill** and **Benny Latimore** and the powerhouse vocals of **Denise La Salle**, whose raunchy *Your Husband Is Cheating On Us* is one of the set's highlights. If there's a place for authentic soul in the modern music marketplace, then this corner of Mississippi is still the place to find it.

Another independent, the New York-based Roulette label, is the subject of box set issued by Westside, *The Roulette Story* (WESX305). Roulette covered everything from jazz, through R&B and rockabilly to soul and pop. This three-CD collection offers an entertaining run through its output, taking in such gems as **Jimmy Lloyd's** *Rocket In My Pocket*, *English Country Garden* by **Jimmie Rodgers**, **Count Basie's** immaculate *Little Darlin'* and *San Francisco Bay Blues* by the **Au Go Go Singers**, a folk group which included a young **Stephen Stills** in its line-up.

JOHN CLARKE



media

FT's German challenge

Germany's press faces a shake-up with the launch of a new business daily. Report by Sigrid Aufterbeck



Fistful of deutschemarks: the *Financial Times* hopes to carve a niche for itself in a German market that boasts £23 billion in advertising revenue

With the *Financial Times* about to enter the German marketplace, business publications there are bracing for a shake-up. The *FT* this week announced plans to launch a German-language business and financial daily in partnership with Gruner+Jahr, the newspaper and magazine wing of Bertelsmann.

The £60-million joint-venture company is working under the banner "Facts & Figures GmbH" until a title for the paper is agreed. Andrew Gowers, deputy editor of the *FT* in London, is editorial director of the new company, with Michael Rzesnitzek of G+J in charge of marketing and management.

The "German FT" — the launch is expected late this year — will print on the characteristic salmon-coloured paper and a comprehensive online version will be available. An editorial team of about 100 — mostly based in Hamburg — will produce the paper, with access to articles from the *FT*'s global network of correspondents. The sales target is 150,000, the break-even schedule is three years.

It is an ambitious project: the first new daily to enter the German market for 20 years will challenge two heavyweights: *Handelsblatt* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. The former is Germany's monopolist business daily with sales of 160,000; the Frankfurt paper is a national daily boasting authoritative business and finance sections which sells 400,000 copies.

Both papers are gearing up for the imminent circulation battle. *Frankfurter* — based in euroland's financial centre — launched an extra finance section in January and introduced an *FT*-style Lex column. Its financial expertise received a boost when staff from its now defunct stablemate, *Blick durch die Wirtschaft*, were incorporated into *Frankfurter* last year.

Handelsblatt is now recruiting to bolster its editorial team of 175, fearing that the new *FT* may poach its staff. The paper has improved its layout and introduced features and analysis pages as well as devoting more space to personal finance.

Gowers believes that there is enough room in the rapidly growing business media market for all three publications: "This market is growing faster than the papers."

The *FT* strategy is to find a niche by combining "the authority of traditional German newspapers with the investigative and story-breaking culture of German business magazines". The German dailies suffer from the perception that they are dull and act as obedient vehicles for the reporting of corporate success, leaving critique and scoops to the magazines. Ironically, as the German corporate world has become increasingly multinational, business journalists covering this changing landscape have remained insular: all titles are in German hands, mostly addressing a German readership.

Business and financial journalism has boomed in the past few years. Previously, Germans had showed little interest in personal finance — only this decade did they start to plunder their savings accounts and shift to more modern forms of investment. First to take advantage of this were the magazines. New titles such as *Börse Online* and *Impulse* were launched, while existing titles such as *Capital*, *Wirtschaftswoche* and *Manager Magazin* flourished.

The newspaper market was different: there were no new players but all the dailies — notably *Die Welt* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung* — upgraded their business coverage because it was this section that was pulling in the largest advertising revenue. In 1998, the national dailies increased their advertising revenue by 11.8 per cent, according to the association of German newspaper publishers. It is not surprising that Pearson, which owns the *FT*, is eyeing a share of this DM6.9 billion (£2.34 billion) in revenue.

The European edition of the *FT*, printed in Frankfurt since 1979, has seen its sales climb to 22,000 in Germany, but further large gains seem unlikely as Germans remain reluctant to read English.

In G+J, the *FT* group has found an ambitious partner. It already owns the business magazines *Capital*, *Impulse* and *Börse Online*. G+J's interest in joining forces with the *FT* is no doubt heightened by the fact that it has no major daily in its stable — its revamp of *Berliner Zeitung* has yet to enjoy success.

Andrew Gowers will relish the challenge on his hands. After a successful year as acting editor of the *FT* while Richard Lambert was in America, he found little appeal in retreating from the front line.

But already some German analysts are pointing to a possible weak link. "Gowers will find it difficult to hire enough talented journalists," says Peter Turi, Editor of *Kress-Report*, a media gossip publication. Gowers is headhunting writers but he has yet to reveal any "big names" — writers who would serve to attract further quality personnel.

BT lines up a new image

THERE has been much posturing in adland over the past two weeks as to which agency has won what accounts in the great BT pitch bonanza. Newspaper business sections have bandied about fantastic spend figures with scant regard to the truth, common sense, competitor activity or basic mathematics.

However, with this week's award of the £5 million youth advertising account to Labour's favourite trendy advertising co-operative, St Luke's, BT's new line-up of agencies is complete.

Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, Britain's largest agency, had the most to lose, holding most of the account over the past three years. BT went into the pitch intending to spread a workload that had become onerous for any one agency to handle — least of all profitably. Abbott Mead retained the most significant chunk of the business, the £60 million domestic consumer account. This includes call stimulation, the task that over the past two decades has brought us Beattie and Bob Hoskins.

Stefano Hatfield

As we know, the "it's good to talk" ads are set to disappear after five years, as that task (getting people, particularly men, to use the phone more and for longer) appears to have been met.

Today, the first problem is how to reverse BT's long-term decline in market share in the face of competition from cable operators.

M & C Saatchi, Maurice Saatchi's agency, emerged as the primary beneficiary of the review process. It won the £10 million business-to-business communications account with a brief that involves promoting BT as more than a supplier of telephony, but as a business partner in the digital age. The win is a coup for M & C Saatchi. And it's vital to BT's management that this campaign succeeds. Business-to-business is about corporate confidence, shrugging off an old-fashioned image and, almost as important, cracking the insecurity of BT's management.

The rest of the line-up is completed by St Luke's, and Ammirati Puris Lintas, which has been taken on for special projects.

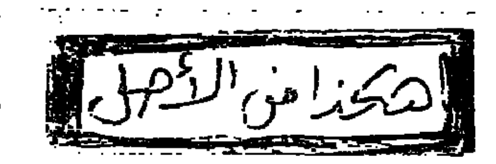
The first new Abbott Mead campaign is expected next month. BT has a good advertising track record. There is no reason to suggest that this will change given the quality of agency line-up.

■ NEWS this week of Adam Lury's retirement from advertising at the age of 42 has given many pause for thought.

Lury is one of the five co-founders of HHCL & Partners, the agency born in 1987 that went on to be the most controversial, pretentious, clever and hyped of the 1990s. As planning director, Lury was the brain behind such campaigns as the launch of First Direct bank, the turnaround of Britvic's Tango brand and the repositioning of the AA as the "fourth emergency service".

Lury's belief that the conventions by which advertising was created could be challenged to allow clients more access is now almost universal industry practice. His championing of strategic media buying, and his belief that advertising did not have to patronise the consumer, have also been greatly influential. He will be missed.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign.





FIONA HANSON



Sir Paul Condon managed to keep his job, to the unspoken relief of the Yard press office, despite the furore arising from the Stephen Lawrence report

Spinning a thin blue line?

Police press officers face pressures to provide both more information and less, says **Stewart Tendler**

As the Stephen Lawrence report finally slips down Fleet Street's news schedules, Scotland Yard press officers are breathing a sigh of relief. The Met has been badly bruised but Sir Paul Condon is still in charge. The damage could have been much worse.

Organising press relations for Britain's 54 police forces and national squads must often seem like occupying that proverbial spot between a rock and a hard place. "The journalists think we are holding back. The police think we are too close to reporters," sighed one senior press officer this week.

The role of police press offices has recently come under increasing scrutiny. Journalists complain that it is often hard to obtain information and that responses to queries are slow. Press officers argue that they are constrained by the nature of police work. But Scotland Yard has nonetheless increased its emphasis on press relations, now a 70-strong department with 30 press officers and an annual budget of £6 million. Nationally, no force is without its media unit, and responsibility for them has gradually passed from senior police officers to media managers.

The units offer a daily diet of crime stories and traffic accidents for newspapers, radio stations and television. The greatest focus of media attention is the Yard, which handles about 25,000 calls each year to its 24-hour press bureau. Yet in many county forces, press offices are less responsive to media demands. They close at 5pm, and press officers are rarely contactable at night or at weekends.

Such reluctance to maintain the flow of information reflects a longstanding paranoia about the press among police — although Dick Fedorcio, the head of the Met's press and publicity operation, argues that other organisations are equally cautious. He advocates a better rapport between the press and press officers but admits that even in the Met, only about a third of officers are comfortable with the media.

The idea of openness towards the media also sits uneasily with the view of many modern chief constables, versed in the latest management theories that dictate that forces should speak with one corporate voice to the press, as commerical companies do.

In recent years, forces including the Yard have tried to tighten their control on information — not always successfully, since most crime reporters operate by using personal contacts. The Yard has also been accused of using the drive against corruption to curtail such contacts — a charge it stoutly denies.

According to Chester Stern, the president of the Crime Reporters' Association, trying to gag officers will encourage rather than halt corruption. He says that tighter controls encourage an underground market for information, funded by less scrupulous newspapers.

Last year, for example, there were reports that £35,000 was being offered for a picture of a particular notorious paedophile in a police cell.

Meanwhile, police press officers face the prospect of further restrictions arising from the legal constraints on information concerning a crime. For example, forces are currently split over when to identify suspects who have been charged. The Yard identifies any suspect as soon as his or her name is on the charge sheet. Other forces refuse to do so until the suspect is in court.

Fresh restrictions on basic information are also on the horizon. For instance, new European legislation could prevent officers from releasing details of accident victims.

Until a few years ago, forces briefed reporters about cases under an embargo, so that the latter could write background articles in preparation for convictions. But defence lawyers claimed there was a risk of contempt of court, and almost all forces now refuse to brief journalists about a case until the jury has gone out.

Despite such increasing legal fetters, chief constables still agree that for better or worse, they must live with the press and improve relations — although there is now at least one alternative which is cheap and offers links to the public unfiltered by journalists.

US forces make wide use of the Internet, and British forces are showing increasing interest. The Yard's site now draws 40,000 people a month. And the largest single entry? The Lawrence report, of course.

News at Ten hangs on to its good name

Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

WHY is ITN so determined to prevent Sky News using the title *News at Ten*? Answer: it wants to start a 24-hour news channel soon and could then resurrect its most famous brand.

The biggest applause at its wake on Wednesday came when Sir David Nicholas, former ITN editor, said: "I can't find it in my heart to cheer the end of *News at Ten*." Just as well the party was shunned (in favour of football) by the executives who wielded the knife. Meanwhile, ponder this: 6.9 million tuned in for *News at Ten*'s Ugandan murders reports.

■ AS ITV forces out news to the margins, I note that its new line-up contains no information about when the weekly "tabloid" replacement for *World in Action*, called *Tonight*, will launch. With such big names as Trevor McDonald and Martin Bashir on board, it was supposed to start the same week as the 6.30pm ITV news. Having seen drafts of the new programme, I'm not surprised. There have been reports of tensions about tacky content. It clearly isn't ready.

■ WHILE former chairman of the BBC Lord Hussey was attacking Sir John Birt's crushing impact on the BBC, Jenny Abramsky, never as fully a paid-up Birtist as her predecessor Matthew Bannister, felt bold enough to do her bit at the Broadcasting Press Guild. "Within the BBC we got too hung up on structures," she said. Arriving back at BBC Radio post-Bannister was "like going into an atmosphere where a messy divorce had taken place and giving marriage guidance". Meanwhile, Michael Jackson, chief executive of Channel 4, has confirmed he is out of the race for Director-General of the BBC by providing written guarantees to his board that he will not apply for the job.

■ HUGE sighs of relief among British comedy makers. ITV's desperate attempt to revive the genre, by asking top US experts Carsey Werner to make *Days Like These* for it in Britain, has produced another flop. The series has only been scheduled up to March 15. Paul Jackson, the BBC's head of entertainment, says: "It goes to prove that it's difficult producing domestic comedy in the UK at the moment."

■ THIS week *The Guardian* ran an odd piece from former editor Peter Preston about his difficulties in recruiting black and Asian journalists — he totalled only three — though his successor of the past four years, Alan Rusbridger, has done much better. But it all boils down to the kind of paper Preston ran. Working on *The Guardian* as I did in the 1980s was a dispiriting experience for anyone who wasn't male and Oxbridge too. Shyama Perera, one of Preston's three, who had two stints trying to further herself before exiting in defeat in 1989, says: "As a black woman I was unskilled at playing the white, male Oxbridge game, and they were certainly not queuing up to give me the rules." For a liberal paper, it seemed odd.

■ LAST week I wrote that ITV's drama reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence murder performed poorly because it was broadcast a week too early. David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, says it was meant to coincide with the publication of the report but that came out later than expected. It was not a victim of a macho male scheduling game. But it illustrates how carefully crafted programmes can fail to make an impact, through simple scheduling mistakes.

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ITV



Unfunny: the sitcom. *Days Like This*, has flopped

Facing the Net threat

Brian MacArthur PAPER ROUND

When I first knew Greg Hadfield he was a young reporter on *The Western Morning News*, fresh from Oxford, with obvious talent and a baby son who was a computer freak when he was just out of nappies. Fifteen years later, Hadfield and Tom, that baby son, run the world's most popular football website, Soccernet, and Hadfield also owns SchoolsNet, a virtual school on the Web.

Four years ago, when he was 11, Tom started a Saturday night soccer results website from his home in Brighton. Now it is owned by the *Daily Mail* and is one of the world's top 50 websites. He will be a millionaire before he leaves university. Success and fortune couldn't come to a nicer family and the exhilarating story of the Hadfields should be studied by every editor who worries about the "threat" from the Net.

That worry surfaced this week when a colleague on the sports desk, who had suddenly realised that football fans could get reports of matches on the Net within an hour of the final whistle, asked why any of them should bother to buy a Sunday or Monday newspaper.

By 7pm on Saturday nights Soccernet is running *Mail on Sunday* match reports, and there are also reports on individual club websites. On Wednesday night about 100,000 Manchester United fans around the world got a 1,700-word running commentary on Soccernet, as well as the results of the other European matches. Yesterday it was receiving 300 votes an hour on who would win the Champions League. Why bother going to a newspaper Internet site for sport?

With the Internet, says *Observer* columnist John Naughton, we have hitched a ride on a rocket and none of us has any clue where it is headed. None of the newspaper Internet gurus would quarrel with that assessment. What they do believe, sincerely, is that newspapers have got to be astride the rocket.

Hadfield, who worked on *Today*, *The Sunday Times*, *Daily Mail* and *Sunday Express* and loves newspapers, has been depressed by the Little Englander lack of enterprise shown by British newspaper groups. They have been so reluctant to embrace new media that they have missed an opportunity to become global players. They will soon be exposed to American conglomerates who will be parking their tanks in Britain, he believes.

That British conservatism is shown in the vivid contrast between the Internet editions of British and American newspapers. Each British newspaper, moreover, has opted for a different strategy. The Internet edition of *The Times* reproduces the total newspaper, but is developing micro sites; *Guardian Unlimited* consists of micro sites with live news; *Electronic Telegraph* is a mix of the two.

Each is successful, with 1.8 million registered users of *The Times*, more than a million regular users of the *Telegraph*, and 200,000 registrations within two months for *The Guardian*.

Americans, by contrast, are producing dedicated Net newspapers. The *Wall Street Journal* has 60 reporters worldwide working 24 hours a day for its constantly updated *Interactive Journal*. It can be set up to deliver a personal profile of news and quotes and has separate entrances for America, Asia and Europe (wsje.com). On *The New York Times* site, news is updated every ten minutes. It offers a 365-day archive, a free library of 50,000 book reviews and exclusive Web reports on books and technology (nytimes.com).

Any first-rate daily newspaper without its own first-rate newswire would eventually have to buy or build one. Peter Kann, the chairman of Dow Jones, which owns the *Journal*, gave warning this week. "Otherwise newspapers, which are so distinctive every morning, will, on the Internet, become the same wire copy by the end of the day. That's the case with many newspapers on the Web today, which are the *Daily Bugle* by morning and the Associated Press by night."

Hadfield would agree with the drift of Mr Kann's comments. New media in Britain, he says, is often led either by staff who know something about new media but nothing about journalism, or by journalists who are ignorant of new media — and sometimes by technicians who know nothing about journalism at all. Defensive strategies intended to ring-fence the British market won't work because they won't make money.

Is Hadfield too pessimistic? John Naughton's iron law is that we always over-estimate the long-term impact of new technologies — and my own experience with *Today* in 1985-86 suggests that newspapers using new media can try to fly too high, too soon. British newspapers may be right to make haste slowly.

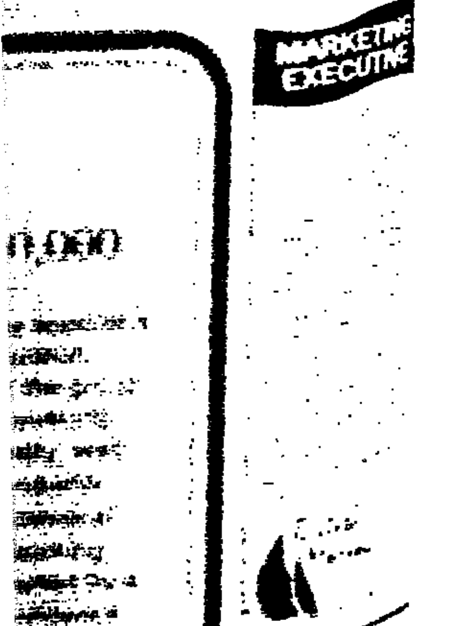
Internet editions are capturing young, promiscuous or overseas readers who don't or cannot buy newspapers and are establishing the attraction of a brand. By starting to publish Web links from important news stories, *The Times* becomes a search engine to the wealth of information on the Net. E-mail addresses at the end of columns have proved a remarkable success: after their recent columns on the euro in *The Times*, Mary Ann Sieghart and Anatole Kaletsky have been swamped with up to a hundred e-mails.

Few editors are complacent about the Net, but most also believe in Naughton's iron law. So, as the world explodes with information, they argue that newspapers must act as sieves, selecting the blend of information and entertainment that suits their brand. Newspapers and the Net can coexist. Yes, they might say, you can read *Mail on Sunday* match reports on Soccernet on Saturday nights, but *Mail on Sunday* sales are still up 43,000 on a year ago.



On the ball: Soccernet on Wednesday

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A crisp approach to cable

Raymond Snoddy talks to Tony Illsey, the salted snacks man who turned telecoms evangelist

PAUL ROGERS



Cable boss Tony Illsey often rings Telewest call centres pretending to be a member of the public

These days, when you ring the headquarters of Telewest, one of the big three cable companies, an extraordinary thing happens. The call is answered quickly.

Cable companies such as Telewest have had a terrible reputation in the past for the service they have provided. "Just six months ago we were answering only 74 per cent of all calls received, and of those only 64 per cent were answered within 30 seconds," says Tony Illsey, who came from running Walkers Crisps, a company that has won most of the marketing prizes going, to be chief executive of Telewest. He was the first executive with top-notch marketing experience to take charge of a cable company. "Last month our total calls answered were well into 90 per cent, of which 82 per cent were answered within 30 seconds," he says.

the media interview

The transformation was achieved by focusing senior managers on the issue at a meeting every Tuesday when they knew the call numbers would be reviewed. "The whole team know their first priority is to make sure that they are not going to be embarrassed during that meeting," says Illsey, who often rings the call centres pretending to be a member of the public. Apart from "crunching together" Telewest with General Cable and Birmingham Cable late last year, Illsey says his priority has been to make basic things work.

There has been another change to the company during the chief executive's reign. When Illsey took over, his mother spent £200 on Telewest shares at 130p, the first shares she had ever bought. They now stand at 270p.

The difference is not entirely due to Mrs Illsey's son. The surge in the share of the telecommunications sector has pulled shares of cable companies up with them. Illsey has also taken over at a time when cable is being taken more seriously and the balance of power between the industry and its satellite rival BSkyB has been shifting its way.

Five years ago, satellite dishes outnumbered cable connections by three to one. There were 2.5 million dishes against 800,000 cable TV subscriptions. By the end of last year, cable had added two million homes while satellite had added only one million.

Illsey, who can tell where anyone was brought up by the brand of crisps they eat, has high hopes that the gap will be further eroded by the company's "millennium package". For £12.99 a month subscribers get a telephone line and 14 television channels, including the five terrestrial ones, as well as Sky One, Eurosport, the Cartoon Network and Sky News.

The package is already successful in such areas as Newcastle, and in the next few months it will be introduced to the General Cable franchises in London and Slough, and at Birmingham Cable. "It is the single biggest driver of the momentum now in the company," says Illsey, who became a management trainee with Colgate after doing a business degree.

He was five years in Japan for Pepsi, which he describes as life-changing. "I learnt the importance of having a vision for a business and communicating the hell out of it so that everyone knows exactly what it is about and what they have to do," he says.

Illsey wants to see maximum flexibility in services offered to customers. Soon after arriving he expressed surprise at the small attempt to segment the market and to understand customers' needs. "There are five types of Walkers Crisps," he says, "and 18 flavours, many with regional differences. There are four bag sizes for different ages, sexes and occasions. And these items cost 25p or 50p."

Eighteen flavours may be too many for cable, but last year, even excluding the newly acquired companies, Telewest added 170,000 homes. It now has 1.4 million subscribers despite BT's "win back" campaign. "What they don't reveal is that they are still losing to Telewest more telephone customers than they claim to be winning back," says Illsey.

The chief executive plans to introduce digital cable packages at the end of this year. The launch of SkyDigital and ONdigital, the terrestrial service, have created, he believes, such awareness about pay television that cable will be able to take maximum advantage when it launches services such as fast Internet access.

Cable modems will, Illsey says, make the Internet available on impulse, just like television. Above all, cable will be able to offer a range of services now becoming commercially feasible, such as video-on-demand — the ability to choose from a library of hundreds of feature films.

In America last week Illsey saw another possible cable offering, an electronic book that can store up to ten books at a time from an Internet site. "Where a novel might take 15 minutes to download over a phone line, it will take 15 seconds with a cable modem," says Illsey. But that is a little way off yet. Before that is the battle to establish Telewest as the benchmark of customer service.

Wanted: heavy mettle PR

TRADE

A RESOURCEFUL operator is being sought for one of the country's toughest PR assignments. **PR Week** reports that, after a run of poor publicity, the Diana Memorial Fund is hunting for its first in-house PR and communications head. Since it was established in September 1997, just after the Princess's death, the fund has been involved in rows over the high fees paid to its lawyers, the use of Diana's name on a low-fat spread and lottery scratch-card and, most recently, the dismissal of Paul Morrell, the Princess's former butler. A PR practitioner describes the job as "a bit of a poisoned chalice".

■ THE Advertising Association has warned the Government against allowing the Food Standards Agency to censor advertising, says **Campaign**. The AA is worried that the agency will be hijacked by healthy-eating pressure groups bent on warning consumers off certain products. Unconvinced by assurances from Jeff Rooker, the minister responsible for food safety, the association is drawing up battle plans. "Commercial advertising is not a tool for social policy or social engineering," says Sara Price, the AA's head of public affairs.

■ THE BBC's first dedicated promotion for *EastEnders* will begin today, **Marketing** reports, with slots on all television and radio channels. The campaign has been masterminded by Maureen Duffy, who joined the BBC last year from J. Walter Thompson. It is part of an attempt to stem the drift of peak-time viewers from BBC1 to ITV, which could accelerate next week when *News at Ten* disappears.

■ ESTHER RANTZEN, keen to remain untarnished by the row over fake talk-show guests, has written to **Broadcast** pointing out that her BBC2 programme has had no allegations made against it. She writes about "the positive good" achieved by tackling important subjects through first-hand experiences. "We should recognise the strength and value of talk shows when they are well made," she says.

■ THE LAUNCH PAD: Associated Newspapers delays launch of free London daily *Metro* to March 15 and cuts print run from 350,000 to 100,000; EMAP's new weekly *Heat* hits 100,000 sales target (**Marketing**); Mirror Group abandons plan to relaunch *Sporting Life* (**Campaign**). *Mslexia*, dedicated to women's writing, to launch on Monday; EMAP Elan plans new magazine edited by Sharon Ring, former editor of *OK!* (**Press Gazette**). Indefinite delay to launch of *Crime Weekly* by Cabal (**Media Week**).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: J. Walter Thompson wins £15 million account for cable TV and telecoms firm NTL; Publicis to handle £3 million campaign for McVitie's, introducing *Jaffa Cakes* in a resealable tube; Lever Bros signs £1 million deal to sponsor ITV's *Stars in Their Eyes*, promoting Radion washing powder (**Marketing**). Sega returns to former agency WCRS to launch new Dreamcast computer-games console; Mustoe Merriman Herring Levy wins £3 million account for Norwich Union investment fund; Fuji plans to appoint Wunderman Cato Johnson to £3 million account (**Campaign**).

■ CHANGING FACES: Andy Zonfrillo, broadcast director at Leo Burnett, to be TV buying director for MindShare; Gerry Roads quits as European marketing director for Del Monte (**Marketing Week**). Documentary-maker Paul Watson leaves Granada for United Productions (**Broadcast**); Bates Dorlands account executive Adam Leigh promoted to deputy managing director (**Campaign**). Giles Pearman from Unilever to be Classic FM's first dedicated marketing manager (**Media Week**).

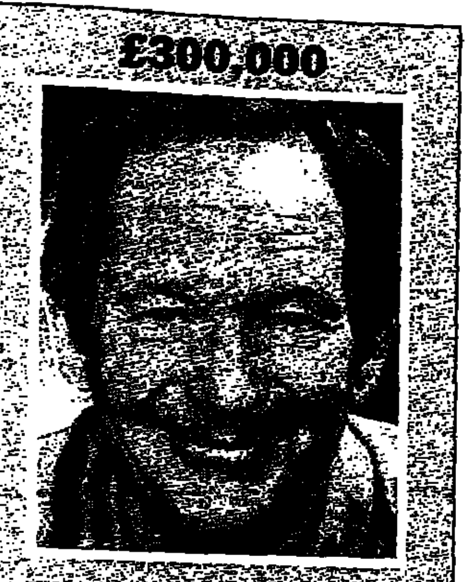
MICHAEL LEAPMAN

media times

How much do they earn a year?

As the battle of the news bulletins begins, the presenters are being turned into stars with salaries to match, says **Carol Midgley**

£300,000



MICHAEL BUERK
Programme: BBC Nine O'Clock News.
Audience: 5.2 million (average).
Style: Full of gravitas but with a caring manner. Like Sissons considered to have the right level of seriousness to present foreign news stories. Best remembered for his harrowing reports of famine in Ethiopia.

£150,000



ANNA FORD
Programme: BBC One O'Clock News.
Audience: 4 million (average).
Style: Joe, veteran of both television news and Radio 4's Today programme. Pin-up to many a man in his 40s. Famously threw white wine over Jonathan Aitken after being dropped from his company, TV-am.

£300,000

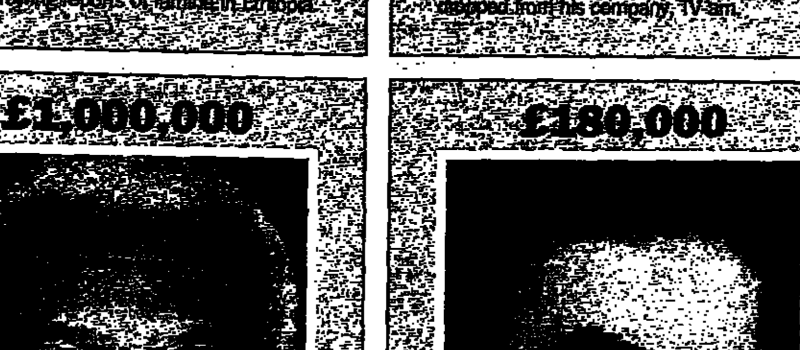


PETER SISSONS
Programme: BBC Nine O'Clock News.
Audience: 5.2 million (average).
Style: BBC heavyweight with fine pedigree. No frivolity, rarely smiles, not afraid to upset his bosses. Attacked BBC for conducting a "beauty contest" to find newsreaders instead of increasing journalistic credibility.

£150,000



HUW EDWARDS
Programme: From May, he will anchor the relaunched BBC Six O'Clock News.
Audience: 5.9 million (average).
Style: Affable, laid-back Welshman, virtually unknown to many viewers. Former political correspondent recently plucked from BBC's little-watched News 24.



£1,000,000

TREVOR McDONALD
Programme: ITV Evening News at 6.30pm.
Audience: Likely to be 5 million.
Style: Cuddly, benign, much-loved housewives' favourite. [illegible] popular news presenter [illegible]

£180,000

DERMOT MURNAGHAN
Programme: ITV's new Nightly News (11pm).
Audience: Likely to be 4 million.
Style: Handsome, approachable, articulate. Adamant that he is not trying to step into Trevor McDonald's shoes. "We are living through the Trevor McDonald era — the rest of us will be forgotten."

£200,000

JON SNOW
Programme: Channel 4 News.
Audience: 800,000 (average).
Style: Eccentric, affable intellectual with authoritative delivery. Fond of cycling. Former lover of Anna Ford. Cousin of Peter Snow, god of the Swingometer. Broadened his portfolio with Monica Lewinsky interview.

£500,000



KIRSTY YOUNG
Programme: 5 News.
Audience: 350,000 (average) at 7pm.
Style: Blonde, fragrant Scot, dubbed thinking man's crumpet. Started a trend for laid-back news presenting by perching delicately on the desk instead of sitting behind it. Inundated with offers from rivals.

Tonight, as Trevor McDonald utters his last "And finally...", and *News at Ten* is laid to rest, the pistol will sound for the fiercest ratings battle of 1999. Television news bulletins, once regarded as the dowdy sister of current-affairs programmes and documentaries, will take centre stage as executives fight tooth and nail for the teatime news viewer.

From Monday, the *Six O'Clock News* will be ambushed by ITV's spanking new *ITV Evening News* at 6.30pm. A week later Channel 5 will launch a more minor offensive by moving *5 News* from 7pm to 6pm in the hope that the telegenic Kirsty Young will lure viewers away from the BBC's Welsh anchorman Huw Edwards.

The *Nine O Clock News* will remain much as it is, fronted by the heavyweights Peter Sissons and Michael Buerk. But the industry will be watching keenly to see how many viewers ITN's new *ITV Nightly News* will draw in at the late hour of 11pm. ITV is hoping that the ratings will be helped by the fact that it is being presented by the rising stars of ITN: Dermot Murnaghan and Katie Derham.

The BBC is also nurturing a rising star, Huw Edwards, who was recently plucked from the obscurity of *News 24* to the heady heights of presenting the new *Six O Clock News* this spring. The *Six O Clock News* relaunches on May 10 with the promise of a warmer, more informal bulletin with a dedicated "family" of specialists and reporters who, the BBC hopes, will soon become as familiar to viewers as their living-room furniture.

Executives at BBC news are irritated by the fact that other news programmes are now "crowding" around the hallowed spot of 6pm in the race for ratings. Their argument is that the viewer loses out as rival broadcasters limit the number of times a day that people can get news on terrestrial channels.

Only *Channel 4 News* appears to be keeping out of the battle. Despite a relaunch this year, rumoured to have cost £3 million, which has resulted in a multicoloured studio and flashes of Jon Snow's socks as he sits behind a trendy, low-slung desk, it is staying at 7pm.

However, much more than ratings is at stake. Broadcasters want their news presenters, even their correspondents, to be stars. The successful newscaster of the future will be regarded as one who is recognised as readily as the mighty Trevor McDonald; their audience figures will be watched almost as keenly as the ratings for *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*.

As the value of newscasters rises in the modern age, so will their salaries. The pay of newsreaders varies enormously, and usually reflects how many rival broadcasters have tried to poach them. *The Times* has conducted its own research into the current salaries of our leading newscasters, a notoriously secretive area.

We have been forced to rely on a number of unofficial briefings and anonymous sources, so apologies to those we may be under — or over — paying.

Fighting for the viewers

Raymond Snoddy

Whatever else you plan to do this evening, try to spare the time to take part in a small piece of broadcasting history, by watching the very last edition of *News at Ten*.

The decision by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) to allow the ITV companies to move the news and change the schedule was controversial for a day or so. But apart from the harrumphings of a few newspaper columnists bemoaning the death of public service broadcasting as we know it, the life went out of the row remarkably quickly. There were no marches to save *News at Ten*, although those responsible for its success will doubtless shed a well-lubricated tear tonight when the last bulletin is over at 10.30pm.

A postscript to the debate has been supplied today by Sir David Nicholas, the former chief executive of Independent Television News, in a letter to *The Times*. Much to his irritation, he has found out that one of the influential voices in the 7-3 majority in favour of killing off *News at Ten* was that of his old friend and rival Sir Michael Checkland. Sir Michael, now a member of the ITC, is the former Director-General of the BBC.

The publicity surrounding the move is still a little difficult to stomach — even for a reluctant supporter of the notion that television schedules cannot stay the same for ever. ITV couldn't quite manage to admit that the only point of the change is to show movies and dramas uninterrupted by the *News at Ten* and instead opted for humbug, claiming that "ITV News is Getting Better" — as if that somehow was the motive.

From Monday, we will be able to judge for ourselves whether we are talking "better" or, much more likely, just commercial reality. What is certain is that the nature of the ratings battle for news is about to change in probably unpredictable ways.

On Wednesday, ITN had a audience of 12.4 million for its two evening programmes — 4.7 million at 5.40pm and 7.7 million at 10pm. The BBC was hardly behind its rival — with 12.2 million — but with the peaks reversed; the *Six O'Clock News* pulling in 6.6 million and the *Nine O'Clock News* 4.6 million.

The big battle will remain between ITV and BBC, although Sky News is trying to boost its ratings with a new dedicated news programme, *Sky News at Ten O'Clock*, which launches on Monday.

The problem for ITN will be to hold on to anything like a 12.4 million news audience after the disappearance of its flagship. What if Trevor McDonald does really well at 6.30pm because he is a likeable chap and people know what he stands for, and adds two million viewers to ITV's teatime total — raising its figures to about 6.7 million? Dermot Murnaghan would do well to attract a three million-plus audience to the 11pm news. Which would mean, of course, that overall ITV could lose 2.5 million viewers.

The new regime will take a while to settle down and ITV figures could be poor until viewers get used to the new schedules. When they do, ITV could emerge victorious at teatime, while the BBC could gain considerably with the *Nine O'Clock News*, which is being given a free run between the *Channel 4 News* at 7pm and the new 11pm news.

The nature of news agendas — as well as the impact of high-profile presenters — will have a considerable influence on the battle for viewers. A teatime agenda — domestic news with a popular touch — is likely to develop as a result of the bunching of bulletins around 6pm and 6.30pm. *Channel 5 News* is making its second move, this time to 6pm.

As a result, we might have to wait until 9pm or 11pm for serious news on the main channels. This offers an opportunity for the BBC with the "*Nine*" but, as usual, the Beeb seems to be taking a half-decent idea and treating it in too mechanistic a way. More foreign stories are fine, but on some evenings this week the top three stories have all been foreign — Uganda, Sierre Leone and Indonesia. By having too high a quota of foreign stories, the BBC could fail to take advantage of the opportunity presented on a plate by ITV.

■ Thanks are due to Lord Hussey of North Bradley, the former Chairman of the BBC, for implicitly backing my campaign, launched last week, to become Director-General of the BBC. In the Lords on Wednesday, he vigorously took up the attack on bloated policy units, overuse of management consultants and far too much money being spent on new digital channels. This is an entirely positive development. It is our licence fee money, after all.

media watch

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ABC MONTH ON MONTH COMPARISONS

TITLE	Dec '98	Jan '99	Actual change	% Ch
Daily Mail	2,318,287	2,342,694	24,407	1.1
Daily Star	618,534	630,064	11,530	1.9
Daily Telegraph	1,039,840	1,040,140	300	0
Express	1,068,844	1,103,813	34,969	3.3
Express on Sunday	973,846	1,009,683	35,837	3.7
Financial Times	385,574	384,679	-895	-0.2
Guardian	390,514	399,152	8,638	2.2
Independent	218,389	219,549	1,160	0.5
Independent On Sunday	249,846	252,587	2,741	1.1
Mail On Sunday	2,281,506	2,291,247	9,741	0.4
Mirror	2,214,981	2,289,373	74,392	3.4
News Of The World	4,062,561	4,314,352	251,791	6.2
Observer	398,778	419,876	21,098	5.3
Sport First	61,523	84,378	22,855	37.1
Sun	3,537,760	3,722,416	184,656	5.2
Sunday Business	47,632	53,320	5,688	11.9
Sunday Mirror	1,870,043	2,048,902	178,859	9.6
Sunday People	1,670,347	1,734,594	64,247	3.8
Sunday Telegraph	809,923	810,587	664	0.1
Sunday Times	1,305,589	1,371,869	66,280	5.1
Times	723,094	746,317	23,223	3.2
TOTAL	26,247,411	27,269,592	1,022,181	3.9

THE circulation of most national newspapers has fallen year on year for the six months to January 1999, with *The Independent* suffering the greatest loss — down 14.6 per cent to 219,549.

The *Financial Times* was one of the titles to buck the trend, enjoying a 12.3 per cent increase in circulation. Other newspapers to increase their circulation year on year were the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and *The Sunday Times*.

Month on month comparisons, however, paint a different picture of the national newspaper market, with all titles except the *Financial Times* showing increases in circulation for December.

Sport First, which launched last March, has enjoyed a 37.1 per cent increase on its launch circulation, reaching 84,378, substantially higher than that of *Sunday Business*, which hit the streets a month earlier.

● *MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575).*

Demonstration not trespassory assembly

Director of Public Prosecutions v Jones and Another

Before Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton

[Speeches March 4]

A peaceful, non-obstructive assembly of 21 persons on the verge of the A344 at Stonehenge, found by the trial court to have been a reasonable use of the highway, had not been a trespassory assembly within sections 14A and 14B(2) of the Public Order Act 1986, as inserted by section 70 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

The House of Lords (Lord Slynn and Lord Hope dissenting) allowed an appeal by Margaret Jones and Richard Lloyd from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Collins) (*The Times* January 27, 1997; [1998] QB 563), which had allowed an appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions by case stated from Salisbury Crown Court (Judge Webster, QC and justices).

The crown court had allowed the defendants' appeal against their conviction by Salisbury Justices of trespassory assembly contrary to section 14B(2) of the 1986 Act.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC, Mr Keir Starmer and Mr Anthony Hudson for the defendants; Mr Victor Temple, QC and Mr Michael Butt for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that an order had been made by the district council under section 14A(2) of the 1986 Act prohibiting trespassory assemblies in the Stonehenge area during the period in question.

On the evening of June 1, 1995 a police inspector had counted 21 people on the roadside verge adjacent to the perimeter fence of the monument. Some had borne banners with legends such as "Free Stonehenge". He had told them that they constituted a trespassory assembly and asked them to move off. Some, including the defendants, had remained and been arrested.

The crown court had held that none of the group had been "destructive, violent, disorderly, threatening a breach of the peace or, on the evidence, doing anything other than reasonably using the highway".

It had been assumed for the purposes of the appeal to the Divisional Court that the group had not created an obstruction and not constituted or caused a public nuisance.

Section 14A(5) of the 1986 Act prohibited, as a trespassory assembly, an assembly that took place "so as to exceed ... the limits of the public's rights of access".

Section 14A(9) defined a "limited" right of access as meaning that the public's use of it was "restricted to use for a particular purpose (as in the case of a highway or road)..."

The central issue thus turned on the interrelated questions (i) what were the "limits" of the public's right of access to the public highway at common law; and (ii) what was the "particular purpose" for which the public had a right to use the highway.

In broad terms the basis of the Divisional Court's decision was the proposition that the public's right of access to the highway was limited to the right to pass and repass and to do anything incidental or ancillary to that right. Peaceful assembly was not so incidental.

That was founded on authorities including *Harrison v Duke of Rutland* ([1893] 1 QB 142) and *Hickman v Maisey* ([1900] 1 QB 752).

The question was whether the law today should recognise that the public highway was a public place on which all manner of reasonable activities might go on.

In his Lordship's opinion it should. Provided those activities were reasonable, did not involve the commission of a public or private nuisance and did not amount to an obstruction of the highway unreasonably impeding the primary right of the general public to pass and repass, they should not constitute a trespass. Subject to those qualifications, there would be a right of peaceful assembly on the highway.

To limit lawful use of the highway to that which was literally "incidental or ancillary" to the right of passage would be to place an unrealistic and unwarranted restriction on commonplace day-to-day activities.

The public highway was a public place that the public might enjoy for any reasonable purpose. It was for the magistrates in every case to decide as a matter of fact and degree whether the user had been reasonable and not inconsistent with the right to pass and repass.

LORD SLYNN, dissenting, said that on existing authority the law was clear: the right of the public on the highway was restricted to passage and reasonable incidental uses associated with passage.

The defendants' argument in effect involved giving the public the right to wander over or stay on land for such a period and in such numbers as they chose so long as they were peaceable, not obstructive and not committing a nuisance.

That went far beyond anything that could be described as incidental or ancillary to the use of a highway as such for the purposes of passage, nor did such an extensive use constitute a reasonable, normal or usual use of the highway as a highway.

LORD HOPE, dissenting, said that the consequences of accepting that anyone who was behaving peacefully and non-obstructively and doing no harm to anyone was exercising the public's right of access to the highway, as a matter of right and not by mere tolerance, would have implications far beyond the facts of the present case.

It would affect the position of every private owner of land throughout the country over which there was a public right of way, whether a made-up road or a footpath or a bridleway.

It seemed to his Lordship to be contrary to elementary concepts of justice that the rights of landowners as against the public in relation to access to their land should be diminished by a decision of the House of Lords when nobody who was in a position to defend their interest had yet been heard.

His Lordship was not persuaded that the balance that was struck in private law between the rights of the public and those of landowners was in need of adjustment to enable members of the public to exercise their freedom of assembly.

In practice, they were allowed to assemble in public places as they wished without objection or hindrance so long as they did not obstruct others and were peaceful.

LORD CLYDE said that the defendants' argument and the reasoning of the crown court had gone further than necessary in suggesting that any reasonable use of the highway, provided that it was peaceful and not obstructive, was lawful and so a matter of public right.

Such an approach opened a door of uncertain dimensions into an ill-defined area of uses that might erode the basic predominance of the essential use of a highway as a highway.

The test as to whether the public's right of access to the highway had been exceeded could not be defined in general terms but had to depend on the circumstances as a matter of degree. It required a careful assessment of the nature and extent of the activity in question.

If the purpose of the activity became the predominant purpose of the occupation of the highway, or if the occupation became more than reasonably transitional in terms of either time or space, it might come to exceed the right to use the highway.

The matter was essentially one to be judged in the light of the particular facts of the case, but his Lordship was prepared to hold that a peaceful assembly that did not obstruct the highway did not necessarily constitute a trespassory assembly.

LORD HUTTON said that the holding of a public assembly on a highway could constitute a reasonable user of it and so not constitute a trespass, but his Lordship's opinion that the appeal should be allowed was based on the crown court's finding that the assembly in which the defendants had taken part on that particular highway at that particular time had been a reasonable use of the highway.

He would not hold that a peaceful and non-obstructive public assembly on a highway was always a reasonable user and therefore not a trespass.

Solicitors: Mr Philip Leach, Southwark; Douglas & Partners, Bristol; Crown Prosecution Service, Central Casework.

Licensee's claim against trespasser on land

Manchester Airport plc v Dutton and Others

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment February 23]

A licensee with a right to occupy land was entitled to claim possession against a trespasser, whether or not that licensee was in actual occupation of the land, if that was a necessary remedy to give effect to the rights of occupation he enjoyed under the licence.

The summary procedure in Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was available to a licensee not in occupation of the land to enforce his rights under the licence against a trespasser. There was no requirement of exclusive possession of the land in order to claim a such a remedy.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Chadwick dissenting, dismissing the appeal of Lee Dutton and others from the dismissal by Mrs Justice Steel on January 26, 1998 in the Manchester District Registry of an appeal against the order of the district judge on September 18, 1998 under Order 113 rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court that Manchester Airport plc be granted possession of Arthurs Wood, Styal, Cheshire.

Order 113, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides:

"Where a person claims possession of land which he alleges is occupied solely by a person or persons (not being a tenant or tenants holding over after the termination of the tenancy) who entered into and remained in occupation without his licence or consent or that of any predecessor in title of his, the proceedings may be brought by originating summons in accordance with the provisions of this Order."

Mr Christopher Maile in person for all appellants; Mr Timothy King, QC and Mr Mark J. Forte for Manchester Airport.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK, dissenting, said that Arthur's Wood was conveyed to the National Trust on August 5, 1980. The wood was near the proposed second runway for Manchester Airport.

To comply with conditions which were to govern the operation of the proposed second runway, when completed, the airport company, as the proposed operator of Manchester Airport, needed to create an obstacle limitation surface.

That required a reduction of height in obstacles within the flight path. For that purpose the airport company needed to carry out the lopping or felling of trees within Arthur's Wood.

The appellants were opposed to those works on environmental and ecological grounds. On June 19, 1998 the appellants or others entered Arthur's Wood and set up encampments, including tree-houses, ropewalks and a tunnel.

They did so without permission from the National Trust; and as against the National Trust they were trespassers. It was the appellants' intention that their occupation would make it difficult or impossible for the airport company to carry out the tree-lopping works.

On June 22, 1998, the National Trust granted a licence to the airport company to occupy the land to enable the lopping works to be carried out.

On August 7, 1998 the airport company commenced the present proceedings to recover possession. The district judge made the order sought.

Mrs Justice Steel recorded that the appellants' principal submission was that the airport company had no locus standi to apply for an order for possession, since a person entitled to claim possession under Order 113, rule 1 had to have an absolute title and exclusive possession. The company's licence to occupy did not give it exclusive possession.

The judge was satisfied that as a licensee the airport company had the locus standi to bring the proceedings. The licence gave the right of possession which gave a power against trespassers, and she dismissed the appeal.

The appellants appealed, the issue being whether the licence gave the airport company an interest in the land sufficient to enable it to seek an order for possession under the summary procedure in Order 113.

His Lordship said that it had long been understood that a licensee who was not in exclusive occupation did not have title to bring an action for ejectment.

An action for ejectment, the forerunner of the present action for recovery of land, as well as an action for trespass could only be brought by a person who was in possession or who had a right to be in possession. Further, that possession was synonymous, in this context, with exclusive occupation.

The licence in the present case was a clear example of a personal permission to enter the land and use it for some stipulated purpose. It would be contrary to what Mr Justice Windeyer in *Radaich v Smith* ((1959) 101 CLR 209, 222) described as "long established law" to hold that it conferred on the airport authority rights to bring an action in rem for possession of the land to which it related.

His Lordship would have allowed the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE LAWS said that it was clear that if the airport company had been in actual occupation under the licence and the trespassers had then entered on the site, the company could have obtained an order for possession.

Their claim for possession would not, were they in occupation, be defeated by the circumstance that they enjoyed no title or estate in the land, nor any right of exclusive possession as against their licensors, which the National Trust had no power to grant.

But why could they not obtain such an order before they entered into occupation, so as to evict the trespassers and enjoy the licence granted to them?

The principal objection was that the grant of such relief would amount to an ejectment, a remedy available to a party with title to or estate in the land; which as mere licensees the company plainly lacked. That was the old law.

His Lordship heard the rattle of mediaeval chains.

The remedy of ejectment was simply not concerned with the potential rights of a licensee.

The limited and specific nature of ejectment meant only that it was not available to a licensee; it did not imply the further proposition that no remedy by way of possession could now be granted to a licensee not in occupation.

There was no longer a distinct remedy of ejectment; a plaintiff sued for an order of possession, whether he himself was in occupation or not.

The proposition that a plaintiff not in occupation could only obtain the remedy if he were an estate owner assumed that he had to bring himself within the old law of ejectment. His Lordship thought it was a false assumption.

The court had ample power to grant a remedy to a licensee which would protect but not exceed his legal rights granted by the licence.

The true principle was that a licensee not in occupation could claim possession against a trespasser if that was a necessary remedy to vindicate and give effect to such rights of occupation as by contract with his licensor he enjoyed.

That was the same principle as allowed a licensee who was in de facto possession to evict a trespasser. There was no respectable distinction, in law or logic, between the two situations.

An estate owner might seek an order whether he was in possession or not. So might a licensee, if other things were equal. In both cases the plaintiff's remedy was strictly limited to what was required to make good his legal right.

Elementarily, he could not exclude any occupier who, by contract or estate, had a claim to possession equal or superior to his own. Obviously that would not avail a bare trespasser.

There was no significance, as a matter of principle, in any distinction between a plaintiff whose right to occupy the land arose from title and one whose right arose only in contract.

In every case the question was what was the reach of the right, and whether it was shown that the defendant's acts violated its enjoyment. If they did, as here, and an order for possession was the only practical remedy, the remedy should be granted.

There was no question of the writ of possession interfering with the prior rights of the National Trust. The judge was right to uphold the order for possession.

Lord Justice Kennedy delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Laws.

Solicitors: Mrs Rose-Marie Benavides, Manchester.

Referring to Europe a point already decided

Trent Taverns Ltd v Sykes

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment January 22]

The Court of Appeal could, in the exercise of its discretion, make a reference to the European Court of Justice in a case where the relevant point of Community law had already been decided by the Court of Appeal, as the ordinary domestic principles of stare decisis were not applicable to such references.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by Mr Ian Sykes, the defendant, from the dismissal by Mr Justice David Steel, on February 18, 1998, of his counterclaim against the plaintiffs, Trent Taverns Ltd, that by reason of the provisions of article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty (Cmnd 5179-II) he was entitled to restitution of the amount he had paid to the plaintiffs for supplies of beer and non-beer drinks and to damages.

Article 177 of the EEC Treaty provides: "The Court of Justice shall have jurisdiction to give preliminary rulings concerning: (a) the interpretation of this Treaty ... Where such a question is raised before any court or tribunal of a member state, that court or tribunal may, if it considers that a decision on the question is necessary to enable it to give judgment, request the Court of Justice to give a ruling thereon. Where any such question is raised in a case pending before a court or tribunal of a member state against whose decisions there is no judicial remedy under national law, that court or tribunal shall bring the matter before the Court of Justice."

Mr Alan Tyrell, QC and Mr Becket Bedford for Mr Sykes; Mr James Flynn for Trent Taverns.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the appellant was the lessee of a public house in Bidford on Avon.

The plaintiffs, the lessors, took proceedings against him for breach of the terms of the lease, which contained a beer tie requiring him to purchase all requirements of beer from the lessors or its nominees.

Trent Taverns applied to strike out part of the counterclaim, including the allegation that by reason of the provisions of article 85, Mr Sykes was entitled to restitution of the amount he had paid for beer and other damages.

In striking out, the judge had held that the prohibition in article 85(1) was imposed for the protection of potential competitors, not for the benefit or protection of the parties to the agreement; and that Mr Sykes, as lessee, was a person who was himself a party to the anti-competitive bargain which the prohibition sought to prevent and so could have no remedy.

He expressed himself fortified by the fact that that conclusion had been reached by other judges at first instance: *Inntrepreneur Estates (CPC) plc v Milne* (Mr Justice Mitchell); *Inntrepreneur Estates (EG) Ltd v Singh* (Sir Peter Pain); *Scottish and Newcastle plc v Bonds* (Judge Peter Crawford, QC); and *Matthew Brown plc v Campbell* (Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC).

The judge had said: "For good measure, I have considerable sympathy with the submissions of Mr Nicholas Green, QC, counsel for the plaintiffs, that enough is enough. This point has now been taken, always unsuccessfully, before a range of tribunals. It must now be regarded as settled at first instance. Thus, those seeking to rely on the point must expect to find it dealt with summarily pending any expression of discontent from the Court of Appeal."

The judge dealt in similar terms with the appellant's restitutionary claim. He expressed himself as fortified in his conclusion that that claim, also, was unarguable by the decision of Judge Anthony Thompson, QC, in *Gibbs Mew plc v Gemmell*. He held that both the claim for damages and the claim for restitution were bound to fail.

Since February 18, 1998 when Mr Justice David Steel gave judgment, *Gibbs Mew plc v Gemmell* had been to the Court of Appeal ([1998] Eu LR 588).

In giving the lead judgment Lord Justice Peter Gibson said: "The proposition that a breach of article 85 gives rise to a claim by a party to an offending agreement in damages or restitution has been rejected by the High Court in a series of unreported decisions ... In my judgment those judges were entirely right to do so."

The first question was whether a decision on some question of Community law was necessary to enable the court to give judgment in the appeal before it. His Lordship would answer that question in the affirmative.

It was submitted that the observations of Lord Justice Peter Gibson on the effect of article 85, in which the other members of the court concurred, were obiter. His Lordship did not agree.

Mr Tyrell accepted that he was unlikely to persuade the court that it should reach a decision inconsistent with *Gibbs Mew*. His principal submission was that the court should not reach a decision at all without first seeking a ruling on the relevant points of Community law from the Court of Justice pursuant to article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In support of that submission he deployed arguments which, if accepted, would lead to the conclusion that the Court of Appeal was wrong to decide those points in *Gibbs Mew* in the way that it did.

His Lordship was attracted, at one point, to the proposition that it would be inappropriate to make a reference for the reason that the relevant point of Community law had already been decided in *Gibbs Mew*, so that, on the ordinary domestic principles of stare decisis, the point must be regarded as closed at that level.

But he was persuaded that that simple approach would be inconsistent with the decision of the Court of Justice in *Case 166/73 Rheinmühlen-Düsseldorf v Einfuhr- und Vorratsselle für Getriede und Futtermittel* ([1974] ECR 33).

The Court of Justice there decided that a rule of national law whereby a court was bound on points of law by the rulings of a superior court could not deprive the inferior courts of their power to refer to the Court of Justice questions of interpretation of Community law involving such rulings. The principle must apply, at least equally, to a case where the national court was bound by its own earlier ruling.

Nevertheless, he was satisfied that this was not a case where the court should seek a ruling from the Court of Justice.

First, although not conclusive, it was clearly relevant that the Court of Appeal had recently reached a clear conclusion on the same point. A petition for leave to appeal in *Gibbs Mew* was before the House of Lords and the question the court was asked to refer was squarely raised in that petition. In those circumstances it seemed wrong in principle to take a step which might be seen as pre-empting the decision of the House of Lords.

Second, the House of Lords might decide that the appropriate course was to refer the question before deciding whether or not to grant leave to appeal. If it took that course then there was nothing to be gained by having a separate reference now.

Third, it was relevant to have regard to the position which might develop in the present litigation. It could not be sensible to refer questions which might turn out to be wholly academic. There was to be a trial, within the next two weeks, of the question whether the lease which contained the beer tie has been rescinded.

For those reasons it would not be appropriate to make a reference. In the absence of a reference the court must, it seemed, follow its decision in *Gibbs Mew* and dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Lodders, Stratford-upon-Avon; Kimbell & Co, Milton Keynes.

Sentence for conspiracy to corrupt police officer

Regina v Brown
Regina v King
Regina v Mahoney

Before Lord Justice Auld, Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice David Steel

[Judgment February 3]

A starting point of nine years was appropriate for sentencing a former police officer in a case of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and conspiracy to corrupt a police officer.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing appeals by Raymond John Brown, Martin John King and Mark Mahoney against sentences imposed on March 27, 1998 at the Central Criminal Court by Judge Forrester.

Brown's sentence of three years imprisonment for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice was reduced to 21 months. King's total concurrent sentence of nine years on two counts of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, two counts of conspiracy to corrupt a police officer and one count of corruption was reduced to a concurrent total of six years. Mahoney's concurrent total of five years was reduced to three and a half.

Mr John Nutting, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, and Ms Anne Johnston, pro bono, for Brown; Ms Sasha Wass, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for King; Mr Graham Henson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Mahoney.

LORD JUSTICE AULD, giving the judgment of the court, said that the trial judge had probably overemphasised Mr King's former role as a police officer; but the important point was his use of know-how and contacts put to his own and others' advantage.

The critical question was what was or should have been a starting point for the overall sentence of Mr King, with credit for a plea of guilty, in the specific circumstances of the case.

His financial ruin, and the effect on him and his family were material considerations.

The trial judge's starting point might have been in the region of 13 years. In their Lordship's opinion nothing more than a starting sentence of nine years was appropriate in the circumstances.

Time runs from date of transfer of funds

HF Pension Trustees Ltd v Ellison and Others

Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker

[Judgment February 7]

Where a plaintiff relied on allegedly negligent legal advice and unlawfully transferred surplus pension funds, time started to run for the purposes of section 14A of the Limitation Act 1980, as inserted, from the date of the transfer and not from when it was appreciated that the advice might have been negligent.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in the Chancery Division in a judgment delivered in chambers when deciding to strike out the action brought by the plaintiffs, HF Pension Trustees Ltd, against the defendants: Robin Charles Ellison and Jane Margaret Marshall, partners in Ellison Westorp, and Hammond Suddards, a firm which merged with Ellison Westorp.

Section 14A, as inserted by section 1 of the Latent Damage Act 1986, provides: "(4) [the period of limitation] is either (a) six years from the date on which the cause of action accrued; or (b) three years from the starting date as defined by subsection (5)...

"(5) ... the earliest date on which the plaintiff ... had both the knowledge required for bringing an action for damages in respect of the relevant damage and a right to bring an action".

Mr Alan Steinfeld, QC, for the defendants; Mr Nigel Inglis Jones, QC and Mr Roger Stewart for the plaintiffs.

MR JUSTICE JONATHAN PARKER said that the plaintiffs sued as HF Pensions Trustees Ltd, the trustees of an occupational pension scheme originally established to benefit employees of Fatstock Marketing Corporation Ltd (FMC).

In 1983 FMC was taken over by Hillsdown Holdings plc.

Hillsdown also operated its own occupational pension scheme, known as the HF Meat and Foods Processing Pension Scheme of which the plaintiffs were trustees.

In May 1989 it became apparent following an actuarial valuation, that there was a substantial surplus in the FMC scheme. It was proposed by Hillsdown that the surplus in the FMC scheme should be transferred to the HF scheme, with a view to the benefit of it being passed on to Hillsdown.

The FMC trustees sought professional advice concerning that proposal from a solicitor experienced in pension matters, Mr Robin Ellison, who advised the trustees to the effect that they had power under the scheme to transfer the surplus.

The FMC trustees accepted and acted on that advice. On November 17, 1989 the transfer was effected and by payments made on December 21, 1989 and June 25, 1990 the plaintiffs as trustees of the HF scheme made payments out of the surplus totalling £18.44 million.

£11.06 million was paid to Hillsdown and £7.3 million to the Inland Revenue.

Following the making of those payments, a number of pensioners under the FMC scheme complained to the Pensions Ombudsman. That complaint was upheld and Mr Justice Knox dismissed a subsequent appeal made by Hillsdown.

On October 17, 1997 a writ was issued alleging that the advice given by Mr Ellison to the FMC trustees had been negligent. By way of damages, the plaintiffs claimed (i) the amounts paid to the Inland Revenue with interest and (ii) the costs incurred by the FMC scheme and the HF scheme in relation to the matter.

It was conceded by the plaintiffs that any claim for breach of a contractual duty of care arising out of the retainer of Ellison Westorp was statute barred.

It was further accepted by the plaintiffs that its cause of action in the tort of negligence accrued at the latest on June 25, 1990, the date on which the later of the two payments out of the HF Scheme was made, and that its claims in tort were also statute barred unless it could bring itself within the terms of section 14A of the 1980 Act.

Mr Steinfeld submitted that all the facts relevant to the pleaded claim in negligence were known to the plaintiff when it suffered the damage on which the claim was based; that was to say when it made payments out of the scheme to Hillsdown and to the Inland Revenue.

The fact that it might not have appreciated that the advice which Mr Ellison gave might have been negligent until some time later and did not realise that the transfer was unlawful until Mr Justice Knox held that it was, did not operate to bring the plaintiff within section 14A.

The question whether or not the advice was negligent was irrelevant to the question of knowledge for the purposes of section 14A, and the conclusion that the transfer was unlawful was a conclusion of law not of fact, he submitted.

In support of his submissions Mr Steinfeld relied on the decision in *Bradstock Trustee Services Ltd and Another v Nabarro Nathanson* ([1995] 1 WLR 1405) and *Henderson v Temple Pier Co Ltd* ([1998] 1 WLR 1540).

Mr Inglis-Jones submitted that the plaintiff did not have the requisite knowledge for the purposes of section 14A until it knew that the transfer was unlawful and, in consequence, that Mr Ellison's advice was wrong; in practice, that meant when Mr Justice Knox delivered judgment.

He submitted that both those matters were matters of fact and not of law.

His Lordship said that he accepted Mr Steinfeld's submissions. All the material facts were known to the plaintiffs.

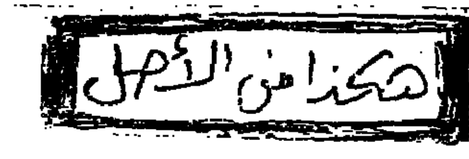
What it did not know and could not have known was that at some time in the future a court would hold that the transfer was unlawful; but although the making of the decision was undoubtedly a fact, the unlawfulness of the transfer was a matter of law.

What the plaintiffs' argument boiled down to was that although it knew all the material facts, it did not know until later that those facts gave rise to a claim in negligence.

In his Lordship's judgment, however, in cases under section 14A as in personal injury cases, mere ignorance that the known facts might give rise to claim in law could not postpone the running of time under the 1980 Act.

The authorities indicated that both sections 14 and 14A were concerned with matters of fact provable by evidence, as opposed to matters of law in respect of which evidence was not admissible.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Nabarro Nathanson.



How should we tackle poor teachers?

John O'Leary

The incompetent teacher has become one of the bogeys of the Nineties, a stereotype to rival that of the long-suffering nurse and the untrustworthy politician — or journalist. Attention has centred on estimates of how many inadequate performers there are in British classrooms, rather than on how to identify them, let alone cope with the problem.

Parents who have had the misfortune to have a poor teacher in charge of their children will know that it is not always easy to pin down the shortcomings. A teacher may be uninspiring and lacklustre, but these are not sackable offences.

Too many glib statements about the defects of state schools assume that incompetence is not only rife, but obvious, and capable of only one remedy: dismissal. Two studies published today illustrate some of the complexities facing head teachers and those judged to be incompetent. The reports are part of a larger study being carried out at Exeter University's School of Education. Without excusing incompetence or pretending that it does not exist, they question the criteria used to judge teachers, and the response of many schools.

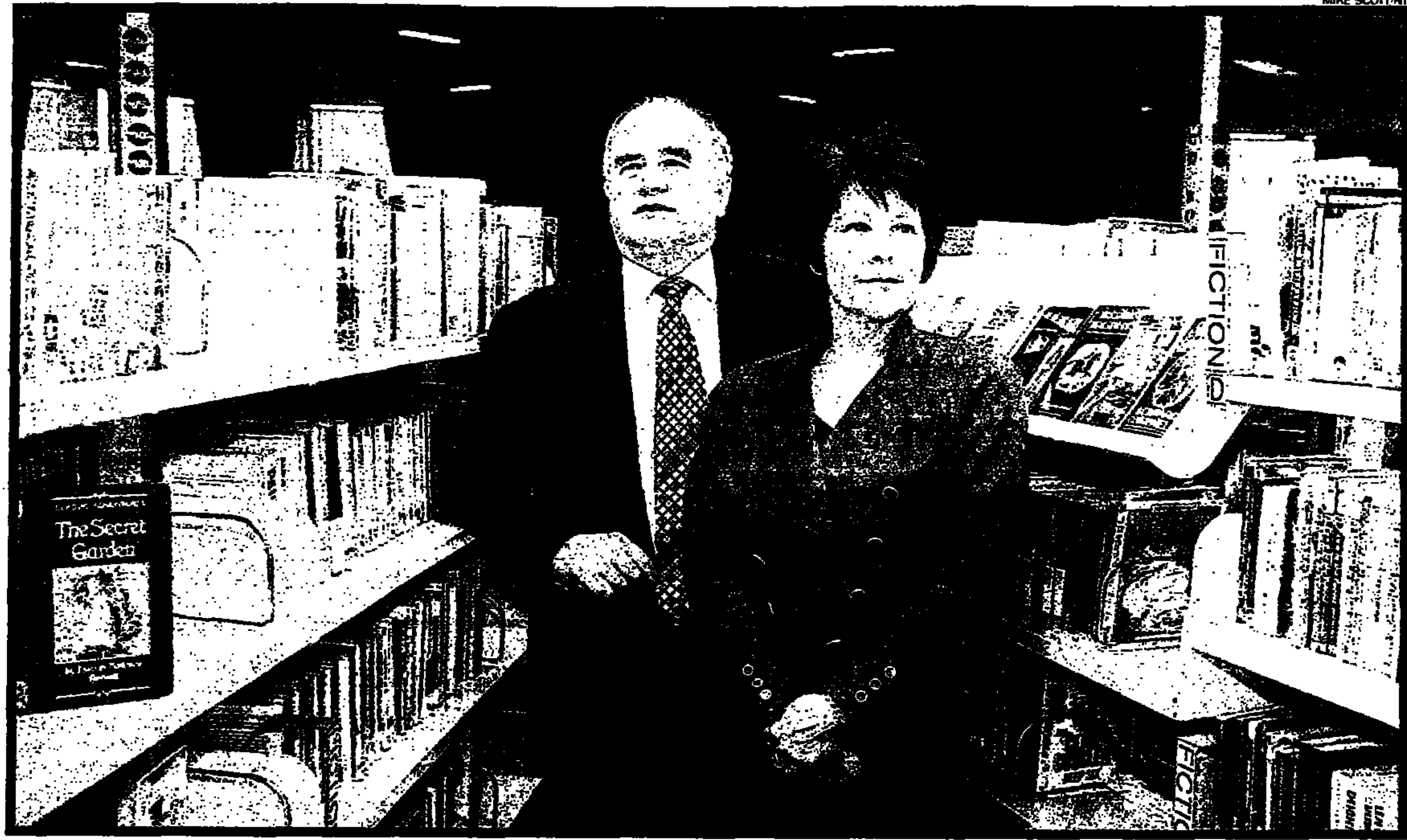
Professor Ted Wragg, who is leading the research, is famously sympathetic to teachers and sceptical about their critics. His column in *The Times Educational Supplement* often lampoons ministers and inspectors for making what he regards as generalised and unsubstantiated allegations of incompetence. Today's reports, however, ask important questions for pupils and parents, as well as teachers.

The research looks at the treatment of incompetence from the point of view of those accused and the head teachers who have to deal with the issue. The sample — 654 heads and 70 self-selected teachers — though large, is not necessarily representative. But there are common threads running through both reports. Not surprisingly, most of the teachers accused of incompetence felt misjudged. Their explanations ranged from medical problems affecting their work to racial discrimination, bullying and conspiracy theories. However, fewer than one in ten of those who had completed a disciplinary procedure were deemed to have improved sufficiently to remain in their posts. Many left before matters reached that stage.

Yet 26 of the 44 teachers in completed cases are now back in the classroom, albeit often in part-time or occasional work. Some wish that they had challenged the original allegation more vigorously, taking their subsequent employment as vindication, but Professor Wragg's survey cannot show which verdict was correct. Because the allegations concerned key skills such as the maintenance of discipline, lesson planning and inadequate progress by pupils, there must be a suspicion that some at least are in the wrong job. The head teachers' responses also raise concerns about the way allegations of incompetence are handled. Many admitted that they should have acted sooner and, with almost half of the cases taking more than a year to resolve, would have welcomed swifter resolution. Only a third had any relevant training and needed more advice on employment law. A quarter of the teachers tackled by the heads in the survey improved enough to stay on, the rest eventually resigning or taking early retirement. But only 13 per cent were considered to have developed into good teachers, while 42 per cent were "acceptable".

Perhaps the most worrying trait to emerge is the sheer inconsistency of schools' responses. More than a third of the teachers said their school had no formal monitoring of performance and no procedure to deal with allegations of incompetence. One in six of the heads admitted that there had been no predetermined procedure to follow.

So far, teaching competence has been seen purely in terms of black and white. Today's reports suggest that there are shades of grey, and that a more systematic approach is needed if under-achievers are to be helped to improve and the no-hopers weeded out.



Educational entrepreneurs: Stanley Goodchild and Valerie Bragg "want to give pupils the opportunities to succeed ... you have to give them some freedom and trust"

The school Swat team

This couple say they can turn around a failing school. **Simon Midgley** investigates

A daunting task faces Stanley Goodchild and his wife Valerie Bragg as they prepare to turn around one of the worst state schools in England, but they are ready for the challenge. From September next year, 3E's Enterprises, the Birmingham company they manage, will run Kings Manor, a failing comprehensive in a rundown area of Guildford in Surrey.

Kings Manor was built to house 900 pupils, but student numbers have fallen to about 400 and, according to Ofsted, the school has dismal exam results, high absenteeism and exclusion, poor behaviour, low expectations, indifferent teaching and patchy leadership. However, Mr Goodchild and Ms Bragg, both 55, who have a strong record of saving failing schools and educating children from deprived backgrounds, are confident of success. Yet the dynamic educational entrepreneurs, who have generated millions of pounds in commercial and industrial investment for their schools over the years, seem surprisingly self-effacing.

"If all goes to plan, Kings Manor is going to be oversubscribed a year or so after it reopens," Mr Goodchild says. "There is disbelief among some education folk in Guildford that anything is going to happen. 'It has been like that for 15 years,' they say, 'why is it going to change now?' Well, they are going to be surprised."

Mr Goodchild may well be as good as his word. As a head teacher in the 1980s, he transformed Garth Hill, a run-down, vandal-ridden comprehensive in Bracknell, into one of the most technologically advanced schools in Europe. It became a forerunner of the Conservative Government's network of City Technology Colleges (CTCs), inner-city schools with curricula biased towards science, technology and mathematics.

> 'I have this passion to make school enjoyable'

Valerie Bragg, whom he married last year, also knows a thing or two about turning sows' ears into silk purses. In 1988 she became principal of Kingshurst, the first CTC, in an unprepossessing area of east Birmingham.

When she started, 83 per cent of students were leaving at 16. Now more than 90 per cent stay on and 40 per cent go on to university. The mystery, however, is precisely how they intend to turn Kings Manor around. It rapidly becomes apparent that few decisions have been made.

We know that the present school will close and its buildings will undergo a £1 million refurbishment in a conscious "re-branding" of the institution. It will reopen next year as a voluntary-aided arts and technology college.

The couple will decide what steps to take only after talking to as many parents, teachers and others as possible. Mr Goodchild says there is no single table d'hôte answer for transforming a school's performance; rather one must choose from an à la carte menu.

While they may try to repeat some of the successful initiatives at Garth Hill (for example, school uniforms, discipline) and Kingshurst (the International Baccalaureate rather than A levels and a mix of vocational and academic education), they want to fashion their educational solutions to Kings Manor's precise needs.

Mr Goodchild adds that successful schools are "owned" by the community. "If you can create a school seen to evolve from the aspirations of the community," he says, "then it has a far better chance of survival or development. Everything is possible if parents share 'the vision' of what the school will be like in future."

Ms Bragg says that there will probably be vocational, technological, scientific and arts education. She also expects that Kingshurst CTC and the Guildford college will pioneer new technologies such as video-conferencing to share teaching and expertise. It is hoped that it will develop strong links with businesses, hospitals and universities.

With the help of an advisory team, the couple will appoint the majority of the governors, a new head and staff. To some, the lack of an educational blueprint for Kings Manor might seem vaguely worrying. Ms Bragg also talks in generalities. "It is not one thing," she says. "It involves raising the expectations of the students and making them believe that they can do it. To do that, you have got to give them some freedom and trust.

"You need a curriculum that excites, motivates and switches them on. And that curriculum will not be the same for every child. Too often children are forced to do things. I think you need to ask them what they want to do. It is a case of encouragement, praise and taking an interest, looking at their work.

"I mean, you have only to say to a child 'I am really impressed with what you are doing' to see them growing.

"It is also about involving the community — pupils, staff, everybody — in the vision. So what will actually emerge will be unique to Kings Manor."

3E's Enterprises, the commercial arm of Kingshurst CTC where Mr Goodchild is MD and Mrs Bragg a director, is being paid an undisclosed management fee until the day the college opens, after which payments will be related to performance targets, such as raising pupil numbers and improving exam results. Any future profits will be shared between Kings Manor and Kingshurst CTC.

The couple will not reap any financial benefit from the deal. "Let's face it," Ms Bragg said, "If we wanted to be rich we would have done something very different from education wouldn't we?"

So why are they doing it? "We believe passionately in education," she says. "I did not like school myself. I have this passion to make it enjoyable and interesting. We feel that too many children become switched off around the age of 12. They underachieve and in many cases regret it for the rest of their lives.

"What drives us is this feeling that we want to give pupils the opportunities to succeed."

Weighed down by books

French pupils suffer from a heavy workload. **Adam Sage** reports

Sebastien Rougier staggered out of Lycée Michelet on the outskirts of Paris looking like a backpacker in the Himalayas. His rucksack was bulging, his legs were bowed.

"Sometimes it can be worse than this," Sebastien, 17, said, puffing. "Our parents spend about £150 a year on textbooks, which weigh us down and which we often don't use. All we get for the money is back problems."

His comment echoes the views of Claude Allègre, the French Education Minister, who has launched a national debate that is likely to revolutionise the relationship between classes and textbooks. "These books are too expensive and stuffed full of things that children don't need to know," he says.

Paul Landric, head of Collège Jean Moulin, in Perpignan in the South West, was among those who supported the minister. "Last year," he says, "we weighed our pupils with their bags and discovered that at the age of 11, they often carry between 10 and 14 kilos — 40 per cent of their own weight. Parents have been telling us for some time that their children are suffering health problems, such as back pain, as a result.

"The difficulty is that everyone in France considers the written word more important than the spoken word of the teacher. We have an almost religious attitude to the book."



TONY STONE

Children carry 40 per cent of their own weight home each day

This did not stop M Landric ordering the dissection of textbooks for a class of 13-year-olds last term. The works were cut up and the pupils handed a few pages at a time, drastically reducing the average weight of their satchels.

The minister has also raised the problem of whether the books are for the use of teachers to help them to structure their courses, or for pupils. In practice, publishers design products that will appeal to teachers: full of graphs, diagrams and pictures.

As Denis Paget, the deputy general secretary of the National Union of Secondary School Teachers, says: "The books have become so exuberant that it is often impossible for children to find their way through them."

One book for 17-year-olds explains Balzac's novel *Le Père Goriot* in terms of "narrativised speech" and "activised agendas" — which is no more comprehensible in French than it is in English. This is accompanied by a "simple diagram" that rates the characters in terms of their "destination", "object" and "attitude", linking them with a shower of arrows. The work concludes: "The system of enunciation is conserved when the subjects' wording demands it."

M Paget says: "What happens is that pupils get a 400-page book but only use only about 50 pages during the year." This is bad for the national budget because the State pays for all textbooks until children leave colleges at the age of 16 to enter the *lycée*, where their parents have to find the £150 annual cost of books. Because the average price of a textbook is £17, the result is that they don't get changed for years on end. Sometimes, they can be 15 years old and inappropriate to new programmes."

In the short term, M Allegre hopes that the ticking-off he gave publishers will produce smaller, cheaper and more comprehensible books.

In the long term, IT advocates say, computers will provide teachers with all the materials they need, leaving textbooks to offer simple guidance and exercises for pupils.

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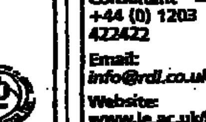
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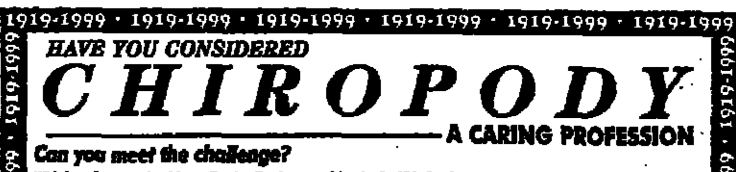
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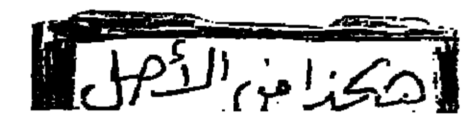
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Chris McGrath finds the Teeton Mill team calm as Cheltenham looms

Williams riding wave of expectation

Venetia Williams is making a better job of containing her Cheltenham Festival nerves than are the Herefordshire hills with the River Wye. Yesterday's flooded valley, where she trains Teeton Mill, further absorbed a surfeit of expectation, as she stacked her sandbags against rising levels of interest in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite.

Once the electric gates had closed on the last of the scribes and television crews leaving an open morning at her stables, she hoped to be left alone for some quiet counting. Days before the Festival now come to 11. The number of sound legs demonstrably included, yesterday, the four attached to Teeton Mill. Then there are her blessings, among which perhaps the most valuable just now is that she is too self-possessed to fret about things beyond her control.

Yet these include the factor that could decide the Gold Cup. Norman Williamson, Teeton Mill's jockey, concedes that his contest with the Irish champion, Florida Pearl, will be "very tactical" — and Miss Williams is leaving him to play his own hand.

Though keeping his cards prudently close to his chest, he gave the impression that he will not risk playing his ace with quite the same ferocity as when, for instance, he burned off his rivals leaving the back straight in the King George VI Chase. The much stiffer track at Cheltenham remains the scene of Teeton Mill's sole defeat under Rules, against Double Thriller in a hunter chase last spring, and to assert a long way out might leave him exposed on the climb to the line.

Williamson was greatly heartened, then, by the facility with which Teeton Mill dropped back in trip at Ascot last month. "Now I've got options," he said. "Before I might have been thinking I had to kick on at the top of the hill and stretch them, which is the way he's won his two biggest races.

"But now he has shown that he has a lot of speed, too. It will be very tactical, but after Ascot at least I can ride him in different ways."

He shares the bemusement of Miss Williams that the sceptics who doubted his speed at Ascot have been replaced by those who now question whether will stay up the Cheltenham hill.

"When he won the Hennessy he looked an out-and-out stayer," the Irishman said. "Then in the King George people said he was tying up, but he jumped the second last like it was the first and I pulled him up to jump the last. When you're that far in front you don't want to do what Barton Bank did. I was on his back and I've no worries."

The other side of the tactical coin is that Richard Dunwoody can track him through the race on Florida Pearl. "That horse has exceptional cruising speed," Williamson said. "And that's what you need in the Gold Cup." Hywel Davies, the former jockey representing Teeton Mill's owners, The Winning Line, added: "I can see Florida Pearl sitting on his tail, expecting to kick going to the last. But if Norman rides his own race, it will be up to the others to try to beat him. This horse travels well, jumps quickly and will appreciate the strong pace."

Williamson is enjoying a marvellous season and has a corresponding book of Festival rides, though he may yet have to abandon Nick Dundee if the Irish novice takes on Teeton Mill. "Obviously I hope he runs in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase instead, but if the ground is soft he'll go well wherever he runs." Lady Rebecca is favourite for the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle, where Williamson is sanguine about her lack of substance and jumping errors. "She does miss the odd one but every time arrives back on the bridle immediately. She rides a lot bigger than she is, a lot of 17-hand horses wouldn't cover as much ground."

Miss Williams, unconcerned that Lady Rebecca pulled off a shoe on Wednesday, will be represented in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle by Bellator, having "run out of time" with Happy Change and Stretarez. But it will be with Teeton Mill in mind that she surveys the Wye valley and reflects on the sort of tide that, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Venetia Williams parades the leading Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup hope, Teeton Mill, at her Herefordshire base yesterday

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ARTADOIN LAD (4.20 Newbury)

Jenny Pitman's well-regarded runner is a cut above his eight rivals judged on a close-up third in the classy Barton last time.

Nb: Memsahib Ofesteem (4.10 Doncaster)

Winning Line casts net overseas

By Chris McGrath

IMPORTED horses from New Zealand have made a considerable impression over recent seasons — none more so than Lord Gyllene, the 1997 Grand National winner, but few have arrived on these shores with better credentials than Cardiff Arms.

The favourite for the New Zealand St Leger this weekend, the five-year-old has been purchased by The Winning Line as a National Hunt prospect. "He has been bought for us by Jim Mallow, who found Lord Gyllene, and he says that Cardiff Arms is every bit as good as him, if not better," a spokesman for The Winning Line said. "Though he is the best Flat horse in New Zealand, he has been bought with a chasing career in mind."

This will be supervised by Venetia Williams, though there is also a chance that he will be tried on the Flat.

Direct Route, the former favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, is unlikely to run in the two-mile showpiece on Wednesday week. The eight-year-old burst a blood vessel when well beaten at Ascot last month and his preparation since has been hampered by wet weather.

"It is odds-against him running," Howard Johnson, his trainer, said yesterday. "I haven't been able to do anything with him since he ran at Ascot."

KELSO

THUNDERER

2.20 Ilahabad. 2.50 Menshaar. 3.25 Major Sponsor. 3.55 Ballyline. 4.30 Smiddy Lad. 5.00 D'Arblay Street.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.25 MAJOR SPONSOR.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) — SIS

2.20 KELSO MEMBERS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,388: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 221 ILAHABAD 15 (S) (Sir Peter O'Sullevan) J FitzGerald 11-4 — A Dobbin
2 6 CHARTER ROYAL 16 (Mr & Mrs R Green) A Dickson 10-12 — B Storey —
3 050F HAPPY DAYS 11 (J Barrett) D Moffatt 10-12 — D J Moffatt 29
4 P4 SLIM PRIOR 48 (C Whillans) D Whillans 10-12 — I Jardine (7) 50
5 6 TAAKID 16 (Double Daggers) M Hammond 10-12 — B Harding —
6 4 CINDER HILLS 7 (F Bray) M W Easterby 10-7 — G McCormack (3) 42

BETTING: 2-7 Ilahabad, 13-2 Cinder Hills, 8-1 Taakid, 20-1 Slim Prior, 25-1 Charter Royal, 33-1 Happy Days.

1998: HERITAGE 10-12 P Carberry (10-11 fav) Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 13 ran

Ilahabad beat Jactor, 15l in 14-runner maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft); previously 14l 2nd of 16 to Dangerous Precedent in 4yo novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft). Charter Royal 15l 6th of 10 to Plenty Courage in national hunt flat race at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm). Happy Days fell in 4yo novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, heavy), previously 45l 8th of 13 to Wynbury Flyer in 4yo novice selling hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft) with Slim Prior (levels) pulled up. Slim Prior 20l 4th of 8 to Dangerman in 4yo novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy). Taakid 30l 5th of 14 to Afrighting in 4yo novice hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm). Cinder Hills 21l 4th of 12 to Jubes Jelliel in 4yo novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft).

ILAHABAD is difficult to oppose in a modest race

2.50 CYRIL ALEXANDER MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE
(£4,241: 3m 1f) (13 runners)

1 214FP2 BOLD ACTION 11 (D,F,S) (Mrs S Blakeley) J Turner 8-11-8 — T Reed 107
2 14/4F1 CHARLIE FOXTROT 20 (S) (Kelso Members) Miss L Russell 7-11-8 — S Durack 89
3 521222 MENSHAAR 17 (B,G,S) (Miss S Blumberg) L Lungo 7-11-8 — R Supple
4 -5252P CASTLE RED 17 (B) (G Brown & B Watson) J Howard Johnson 8-11-2 — A Dobbin 74
5 334P-P CROSS THE RUBICON 17 (B) (P Hacker) G A Harker 8-11-2 — C Baxter (7) 100
6 6U-066 DESPERATE DAYS 63 (S) (F Kirby) F Kirby 10-11-2 — J Supple 47
7 624/PP FINGERHILL 106 (F,G) (M Thompson) V Thompson 10-11-2 — Mr M Thompson —
8 -P30F0 KINGS LANE 13 (F,G) (J Dun) J Dun 10-11-2 — A S Smith 89
9 /2520- MAJOR HARRIS 398 (F) (H Owen) M Hammond 7-11-2 — B Harding —
10 5003-0 MR BRUNO 11 (S Brown) M Barnes 6-11-2 — S Taylor —
11 4134-4 SPIRIT OF STEEL 17 (S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 6-11-2 — J Callaghan 93
12 -0000P OUR CAROL 17 (R Bainbridge) F Murtagh 7-10-11 — B Storey —
13 -0PUU5 SHONARA'S WAY 11 (G,S) (A Guthrie) P Monteith 8-10-11 — G McCormack (3) 76

BETTING: 11-4 Menshaar, Spirit Of Steel, 7-2 Bold Action, 4-1 Charlie Foxtrot, 12-1 Major Harris, 14-1 others.

1998: SWANBISTER 8-11-8 R Supple (8-11 fav) L Lungo 16 ran

Bold Action 3½l 2nd of 15 to Charming Admiral in novice chase at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) with Shonara's Way (1lb worse off) 37l 5th and Mr Bruno (1lb worse off) beaten a distance 9th. Charlie Foxtrot beat Chicodad a distance in 5-runner novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). Menshaar 4l 2nd of 15 to Turnpole in novice ... Of Steel (1lb worse off) 17l 4th, Bold Action (levels) pulled up, ... The Rubicon (1lb worse off) pulled up and Our Carol (1lb worse ... to Tom's River in maiden chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good ... in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good to soft). Major Harris ... hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good), previously 8l 2nd of 4 to Ni... (3m, good)

MENSHAAR has solid claims on his favoured soft ground

3.25 HENNESSY COGNAC SPECIAL SERIES FINAL (NOVICES HURDLE)
(£13,680: 2m 2f) (8 runners)

1 -12112 MAJOR SPONSOR 34 (D,G,S) (S P Graham Ltd) G M Moore 7-11-9 — J Callaghan
2 123 TESSAJOE 83 (BF,S) (Riley Partnership) Miss J A Camacho 7-11-9 — A Dobbin 106
3 5-12P3 AHRAYDOUBLEYOU 20 (S) (R Mellish) Mrs S Smith 6-11-6 — S Durack 89
4 44201 BEGORRAT 20 (S) (M Flynn) J Goldie 5-11-6 — D Byrne 81
5 -22112 CRAZY HORSE 27 (BF,C,G,S) (Ashleybank Investments Ltd) L Lungo 6-11-6 — R Supple 112
6 -10U31 KNOCKARA FAIR 29 (C,S) (Mr & Mrs R Green) J Charlton 6-11-6 — B Storey 103
7 6020U4 BILLY NOMAITE 8 (R Preston) Mrs S Smith 5-11-2 — R Wilkinson 90
8 0 TURGEONEV 170 (D Sills) M Hammond 4-10-8 — B Harding —

BETTING: 6-4 Crazy Horse, 7-4 Major Sponsor, 6-1 Knockara Fair, 10-1 Tessajoe, Begorrat, 25-1 Ahraydoubleyou, Turgeonev, 50-1 Billy Nomaite.

1998: LEVITICUS 4-10-8 J Callaghan (6-1) T Tate 9 ran

Major Sponsor 15l 2nd of 6 to Barton in novice hurdle grade 2 at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to soft), previously beat Lord Lamb 13l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy) with Ahraydoubleyou (6lb better off) pulled up. Tessajoe 8½l 3rd of 10 to Brown Lad in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good); previously 2l 2nd of 19 to Lord Lamb in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to soft). Ahraydoubleyou 3½l 3rd of 7 to Mr Busby in novice handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). Begorrat beat Burundi 8l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, soft); previously 30l 13th of 17 to Reggie Buck in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft). Crazy Horse neck 2nd of 8 to Toonco in novice hurdle grade 2 at Wetherby (2m, good to soft); previously beat San Francisco 11l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, heavy). Knockara Fair beat Scraptastic 9l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft), previously 6l 3rd of 18 to All Gong in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Billy Nomaite 8l 4th of 21 to Berlin Blue in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). Turgeonev 28l 7th of 19 to Phelastre in juvenile hurdle at Auteuil (2m 2f, soft).

MAJOR SPONSOR found Barton too hot to handle last time but this is more his mark

3.55 NORMAN DALGETTY HANDICAP CHASE
(£8,098: 3m 1f) (5 runners)

1 -43861 SHANAGARRY 66 (B,F,G,S) (P Heffernan) F Murphy 10-11-10 — A Maguire 135
2 U-12P3 FEELS LIKE GOLD 13 (CD,S) (Independent Twine Man Ltd) N Richards 11-11-3 — A Dobbin 125
3 21025P BALLYLINE 13 (C,G,S) (49 Partnership) W Kemp 8-10-12 — B Harding 124
4 43U445 POLITICAL TOWER 63 (F,G,S) (G Nixon) R Nixon 12-10-5 — B Storey
5 112F36 SOLSGIRTH 34 (C,G,S) (Kinneston Farmers) J Barclay 8-10-2 — C McCormack (3) 130

BETTING: 6-4 Shanagarry, 7-4 Feels Like Gold, 11-2 Ballyline, 8-1 Solsgirth, 10-1 Political Tower.

1998: DAVY BLAKE 11-10-0 A S Smith (8-1) T Dalgetty 8 ran

Shanagarry beat Master Bavard 8l in 4-runner handicap chase at Musselburgh (3m, good to firm), previously 29l 6th of 10 to Lord Of The West in handicap chase at Doncaster (3m 2f, good). Feels Like Gold 2l 3rd of 15 to Hollybank Buck in handicap chase at Newcastle (4m 1f, good to soft) with Ballyline (5lb better off) pulled up. Political Tower beaten a distance last of 5 to Coast Karmusk in handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good to soft), previously 12l 4th of 7 to Master Bavard in handicap chase at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good to firm). Solsgirth 32l 6th of 7 to Santa Concerto in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy), previously ¾l 3rd of 7 to Blazing Dawn in handicap chase at Kelso (2m 1f, heavy).

FEELS LIKE GOLD narrowly gets the vote over Shanagarry

4.30 SHIP HOTEL, EYEMOUTH HURDLE
[SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE]
(£2,892: 2m 6f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 26/124 CRYSTAL GIFT 13 (C,B,S) (Mrs L Whillans) A Whillans 7-11-10 — I Jardine (7) 96
2 134115 SCOTMAIL LAD 27 (G,S) (G Brown & B Watson) G M Moore 5-11-10 — N Hannity (5) 86
3 -42652 OAT COUTURE 11 (B,G,S) (Ashleybank Investments Ltd) L Lungo 11-11-7 — R Supple 82

5.00 RICKERT BETTING AT YORK HANDICAP CHASE
(Amateurs: £3,225: 3m 4f) (7 runners)

Wakley scores

RUPERT WAKLEY returned to the scene where he broke his left arm in December and rode his first winner since when Trouble Ahead took the Natwest Corporation Novices' Chase at Taunton yesterday. "Luckily the second last fence where I broke my arm was dolled off," said Wakley.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	70	182	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Wind	10	24/2
Söll	90	210	Fair	Open	Heavy	Fine	1	24/2
St Anton	110	540	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Cloud	6	24/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	150	168	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
France								
Alpe d'Huez	160	310	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Argentière	120	400	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avoriaz	290	310	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Flaine	155	570	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
La Clusaz	85	320	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
La Plagne	175	275	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Les Arcs	180	315	Good	Open	Heavy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Megève	120	280	Good	Open	Heavy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Méribel	115	235	Good	Open	Heavy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tignes	169	290	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Val Thorens	200	250	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Val d'Isère	125	300	Good	Open	Varied	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Italy								
Cervinia	120	200	Good	Open	Varied	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cortina	35	55	Good	Open	Varied	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Livigno	80	180	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
M di Campiglio	40	90	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norway								
Geilo	70	80	Good	Open	Varied	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Switzerland								
Davos	175	310	Good	Open	Heavy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grindelwald	110	320	Good	Open	Heavy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Klosters	145	305	Good	Open	Heavy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Saas Fee	120	300	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
St Moritz	90	120	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Verbier	95	190	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Villars	80	270	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
United States								
Aspen	115	143	Good	Open	Varied	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deer Valley	210	220	Good	Open	Powder	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

L = lower slopes U = upper slopes

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: chase good to soft, soft in places; hurdles soft

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Brilliant Star (A Dobbin, 3-1). 2, Sadlers' Roe (11-1). 3, Tui (16-1). Amoroso (4th) 4-9 fav. 12 ran. NR: Leading Note, Moscow Mist. ¾l, 3½l. S Brookshaw. Tote: £4.60; £1.10, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £15.40. CSF: £32.42.

2.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Native Charm (J A McCarthy, 1-2 fav; Timekeeper's top rating and Richard Evans's nap). 2, La Brigantine (6-1). 3, Fortytwo Dee (6-1). 6 ran. 1½l, dist. C Morlock. Tote: £1.40; £1.20, £2.40. DF: £2.40. CSF: £4.05.

3.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Westcoast (C Llewellyn, 16-1). 2, Baraguey (10-11 fav). 3, Brown Seal (50-1). 14 ran. NR: Elegant Spectacle. ½l, 7l. M Tate. Tote: £11.40; £1.80, £1.90, £6.20. DF: £12.60. CSF: £28.41.

3.30 (3m ch) 1, Symbol of Success (R Johnson, 9-4); 2, Stanmore (7-2). 3, Pimberley Place (5-1). Royal Barge 6-4 fav. 4 ran. 1¼l, dist. D Williams. Tote: £2.90. DF: £7.00. CSF: £8.96.

4.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Two Lords (C Llewellyn, 20-1). 2, Wilmott's Fancy (10-11 fav); 3, Advance East (9-1). 8 ran. 6l, 1l. M Tate. Tote: £21.70; £2.20, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £16.60. CSF: £38.06. Tricast: £160.59.

Taunton

Lingfield Park

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Grooving. 2.30 Northern Accord. 3.05 Hang'em Out To Dry. 3.35 Military Academy. 4.10 **PROFESSOR COOL** (nap). 4.40 James The First. 5.15 Osocool.

Carl Evans: 4.40 Hiltonstown Lass.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 SPROTBROUGH CLAIMING HURDLE
(£1,716: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

101 2321 DUBLIN RIVER 18 (V,S) J O'Shea 6-12-0 — Michael Brennan
102 -222 GROOVING 29 (BF,G,S) J Howard Johnson 10-11-10 — A Thornton
103 5P4U LEAP IN THE DARK 9 (D,F,S) Miss L Siddall 10-11-6 — T Siddall (5)
104 1006 SAINT CIEL 20 (D,G,S) F Jordan 11-11-6 — R Johnson
105 -URU KAREN'S TYPHOON 104 (F,G) Miss K George 8-11-4 — R Massey
106 P0P0 ROLFE 46 (B,D,F,G) S Brookshaw 9-11-4 — W Marston
107 5-5P WILLIE B BRAVE 18 (B,S) R Phillips 8-11-4 — S Curran
108 20P0 ADMIRAL'S GUEST 21 W Clay 7-11-2 — G Tormey
109 2/25 DANCING AT LAHARN 97 (G) Miss S Wilton 9-11-2 — Mr N Fehily (7)
110 P005 EMERALD VENTURE 105 (D,F) F Coton 12-11-0 — Mr C Rae
111 00F0 MEMBERS WELCOME 9 (S) W Tinning 6-11-0 — M H Naughton (5)
112 -P50 MAID ON THE MILL 84 M Chapman 5-10-9 — W Worthington

4-9 Grooving, 5-1 Dublin River, 8-1 Saint Ciel, 12-1 Leap In The Dark, 14-1 Willie B Brave, Dancing At Laharn, 33-1 Admiral's Guest, 66-1 others.

2.30 SOUTH YORKSHIRE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,723: 2m 110yd) (18)

201 4482 OTHER CLUB 18 J Portman 5-11-10 — Mr N Fehily (7)
202 -400 COPPER SHELL 13F Mrs L Jewell 5-11-10 — B Powell
203 -003 GENERAL CLAREMONT 21 D Nicholson 6-11-10 — R Johnson
204 5-F5 NORTHERN ACCORD 46 M Dods 5-11-9 — A Thornton
205 50/0 UP IN FLAMES 21 S Bowring 8-11-8 — T Descombe
206 2U65 AQUAVITA 87 (G) Miss K George 5-11-6 — R Massey
207 56P6 HELMSLEY FLIER 63 T Easterby 5-11-3 — L Wyer
208 -260 DYNAMIC LORD 46 (S) T Tate 5-11-2 — G Bradley
209 -040 MEEANDTWO 35 J Mackie 6-11-1 — R Thornton
210 035P PRAIRIE INDIAN 14 (B) O Brennan 6-11-0 — M Brennan
211 P053 FORESTRY 18 M Wilkinson 5-10-11 — W Marston
212 -5P0 INTO BATTLE 21 J J Quinn 5-10-9 — G Tormey
213 1440 MARSH MARIGOLD 63 (D,S) G Fierro 5-10-8 — X Aizpuru (3)
214 F220 STRAFFAN GOLD 20 (B,BF,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-7 — P Niven
215 -P10 DIG FOR GOLD 41 (D,S) R Woodhouse 5-10-7 — B Grattan (3)
216 3460 SUMO 21 (V) Mrs S Lamyman 6-10-7 — R Farrant
217 60/0 CHILDREN'S CHOICE 41F (V) D Morris 8-10-6 — D Gallagher
218 0240 DISCO TEX 17 (B) M W Easterby 4-10-6 — R McGrath

5-1 Dig For Gold, 11-2 General Claremont, Straffan Gold, 7-1 Other Club, 8-1 Forestry, 10-1 Into Battle, 12-1 Helmsley Flier, Dynamic Lord, 14-1 others.

3.05 JOHN BOOTLE MEMORIAL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,565: 2m 3f 110yd) (9)

301 1233 DAN DE MAN 13 (G,S) Miss L Siddall 8-12-0 — A Thornton
302 2113 HANG'EM OUT TO DRY 18 (C,G,S) E James 8-11-10 — G Bradley
303 34P1 LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT 18 (D,S) Miss C Johnsey 8-10-10 — R Thornton
304 2U4U OUT BY NIGHT 9 G M Moore 8-10-7 — R McGrath
305 P6U3 DRAGONS BAY 9 (B,G) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-4 — Mr A Dempsey (3)
306 -P46 JILLS JOY 10 (B) A Streeter 8-10-0 — R Johnson
307 2P55 EL CORDOBES 53 (G,S) Mrs J Buckley 8-10-0 — T Siddall (5)
308 -043 CHEVALIER BAYARD 64 J Adam 6-10-0 — B Powell
309 P-PP GALLANT LORD 17 (G) Mrs L Jewell 10-10-0 — D Leahy

5-2 Dan De Man, 4-1 Hang'em Out To Dry, 9-2 Lough Lein Spirit, 5-1 Dragons Bay, 7-1 Chevalier Bayard, 8-1 Jills Joy, 10-1 Out By Night, 33-1 others.

3.35 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICES CHASE
(£2,902: 3m) (9)

401 2-F1 MILITARY ACADEMY 32 (D,G,S) I Williams 10-11-9 — J Osborne
402 /1U4 SALMON BREEZE 16 (BF,D,G,S) N Henderson 8-11-9 — R Johnson
403 3342 CARLISLE BANDITO'S 9 (F,G) J Berry 7-11-3 — B Powell
404 -P5P CHATERGOLD 25 (D,F,G) A Jarvis 7-11-3 — E Husband
405 52F I'M A BARGAIN 20 N Richards 7-11-3 — P Niven
406 /PPF LUKER BOY 9 J McConnochie 9-11-3 — R Bellamy
407 0/FP SPIRITED STATEMENT 10 S Brookshaw 9-11-3 — W Marston
408 21-0 THATS NO ANSWER 108 (D,F) V Dartnall 6-11-3 — G Tormey
409 00P3 AMBER RING 18 Miss K George 6-10-12 — R Massey

11-10 Salmon Breeze, 11-8 Military Academy, 5-1 Carlisle Bandito's, 12-1 others.

4.10 WADWORTH HURDLE
(£2,583: 2m 4f) (18)

501 2151 MEMSAHIB OFESTEEM 14 (CD,G) S Gollings 8-11-7 — D Gallagher
502 -221 POWDER HOUND 98 (S) I Williams 6-11-6 — R Wakley
503 60 ALTHREY TORCH 50 W Clay 7-11-0 — G Tormey
504 1-0P ANDY'S BIRTHDAY 27 (S) Miss S Wilton 8-11-0 — Mr N Fehily (7)
505 -P00 CHUCKLES 245 D Smith 9-11-0 — Mr N Kent
506 0P FEAR SIUIL 35 D M Forster 6-11-0 — R Guest
507 3053 KALANTE 14 J FitzGerald 6-11-0 — E Callaghan
508 0-0P LARKUS AURELIUS 53 D Sherwood 6-11-0 — J Osborne
509 05P MIDAVON MINSTREL 62 D Nicholson 5-11-0 — R Johnson
510 2-0P NESHER 76 Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0 — A Thornton
511 3223 PROFESSOR COOL 35 (G) J Mackie 6-11-0 — W Marston
512 00-P REGAL BLUFF 65 J McConnochie 7-11-0 — R Bellamy
513 5030 STRONG MAGIC 35 Miss C Johnsey 7-11-0 — R Thornton
514 6-04 TELL MONTY 21 Mrs J Brown 7-11-0 — L Wyer
515 406 THE GRANBY 46 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 — P Niven
516 PF-0 WAG THE BRUSH 39 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 — G Lee
517 40- ALISANDE 349 J Glover 7-10-9 — Mr C Bonner
518 33-0 TRIPLE TRIUMPH 18 J Neville 6-10-9 — G Bradley

5-2 Professor Cool, 7-2 Memsahib Ofesteem, 5-1 Powder Hound, 7-1 others.

4.40 HAMBLETON HILLS HUNTERS CHASE

5.15 DONCASTER MARES ONLY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.10 Corniche. 2.40 Taufan Boy. 3.15 Native Fling. 3.45 Act Of Faith. 4.20 Artadoin Lad. 4.50 Bowles Patrol. 5.25 Stalbridge Bill.

Carl Evans: 5.25 Stalbridge Bill

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) — SIS

2.10 HIGHCLERE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £3,532: 2m 3f) (11 runners)

1 011 FAYEZ 18 (S) K McAuliffe 11-8 — A P McCoy 85
2 U212 GOODWOOD CAVALIER 7 (BF,S) Miss V Williams 11-4 — N Williamson 98
3 ASINBOX 248F B Meehan 11-0 — M Ahern —
4 4 CAGE AUX FOLLES 15 Nick Williams 11-0 — C Llewellyn 37
5 2 CORNICHE 17 C Kellett 11-0 — L Harvey
6 33 MASAMADAS 34 N Henderson 11-0 — M A Fitzgerald 60
7 D05 TABERNACLE 9 C Mann 11-0 — J Magee 48

2.40 ARKELL'S 3B BITTER HANDICAP HURDLE

3.15 GEOFFREY GILBEY HANDICAP CHASE

3.45 ARKELL BREWERY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

4.20 ARDINGTON NOVICES HURDLE

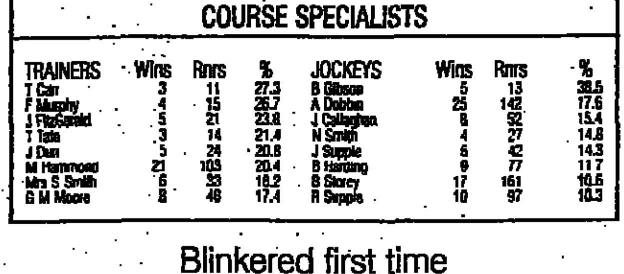
4.50 JOHNNY HAINE MEMORIAL CONDITIONALS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

5.25 PETER HAMER MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE









COURSE SPECIALISTS

Blinkered first time

MOTOR RACING

Williams out to regain pole position

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

THE signs pointed to the Williams museum, but there were no lights on in the room dedicated to the most successful constructor of grand prix cars in history. If Williams is supposed to be a team in crisis — 1998 was its first season without a victory in ten years — then Sir Frank Williams refuses to acknowledge it.

Of course he was stung by the ignominy of seeing his cars run in the middle of the pack while McLaren and Ferrari were duelling for the world championship, but one bad season in 20 does not mean that his team is in danger of collapse.

"Last year brought us a season that was bad for the ego," he admitted, "because so many people had put so much mental and physical energy into the car and the team. But you have to take the rough with the smooth. The upside is that a year like that makes you examine what you are doing."

This from a man who had been threatening to turn Formula One into a Williams benefit. Seven seasons had brought five constructors' championships, bringing his total to nine — more than any other team — plus drivers' titles for Alain Prost, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve.

By the standards of most other teams, last season was not that bad, for Williams finished in third place, but what really stung Williams and Patrick Head, his long-time partner, was the realisation that their cars were outclassed.

The reaction to defeat has been vigorous and no effort has been spared at the factory, which is on the outskirts of the tiny village of Grove, Oxfordshire. This season's car is all new, as are the drivers, Alessandro Zanardi and Ralf Schumacher having replaced Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

The public's view of Williams is the expressionless face glued to a television monitor. It is impossible to tell, by looking at him, how things are going on the track — but make no mistake, the passion is there under the surface.

The 24-hour flight to Melbourne, where the season begins on Sunday, is a wearing experience and must be torture for someone confined to a wheelchair and needing constant attention. It would be surprising if, during it, Williams's thoughts did not stray back to those early days when financial circumstances were so desperate that he had to conduct business from a telephone box because his office phone had been cut off; when mechanics were instructed to "acquire" used tyres from Ferrari. This is the team owner who persisted with Nigel Mansell when the Briton was widely though to be overrated and who was determined to harness the maverick brilliance of Ayrton Senna.

THE WILLIAMS RECORD IN FORMULA ONE

First grand prix: Argentina, 1978. First victory: Britain, 1979. GPs contested: 332. Constructors' championships: 9. Drivers' championships: 7. Pole positions: 108. Victories: 103

Williams also has a gambling streak, which is why he is willing to take a chance on Zanardi and Schumacher. Zanardi, twice CART (IndyCar) champion is largely an unknown quantity in Formula One; Schumacher, Michael's erratic brother, spent much of last season ploughing his Jordan into the gravel traps.

Williams is banking on their contrasting qualities to help inspire a revival in a season that he refuses to accept as an interim one until the arrival of new BMW engines for 2000. This season's Renault-based Supertec engine is improved, though almost certainly will still not be a match for the Mercedes, of McLaren, or Ferrari, which means that the drivers will have to rely on the chassis and aerodynamics redressing the balance, particularly on the twistier, low-speed circuits, such as Hungary.

"Alex is a charming individual," Williams said, "while Ralf is very intense. He is also a very aggressive driver. Alex, at times, has not been so quick in testing, but over a race distance, there is not much between them. People had told me throughout 1997 to watch Alex in CART and he impressed me a lot because he seems a real fighter. We are taking a bit of a chance with him, but not much. With Ralf, you see a driver who had his problems but can only get better."

The big question is whether the team as a whole can get better and so relegate last season to a mere blip in the history of a remarkable organisation. Williams is anticipating closer racing than for some years, with Jordan, Benetton and, possibly, the brash British American Racing team, making an impact.

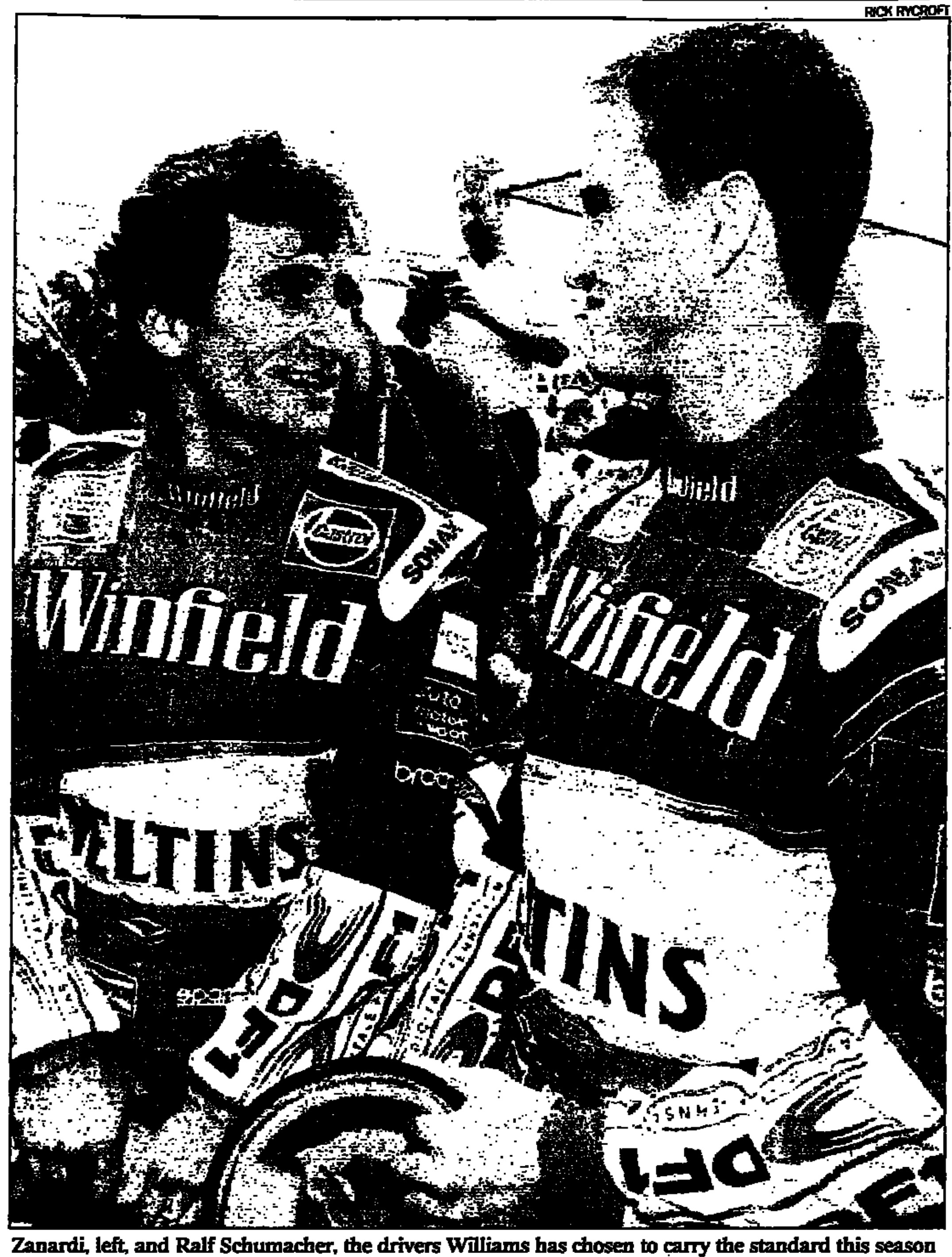
After more than 330 grands prix, he is eager to start racing again. "I am waiting with some impatience," he said. "We have worked hard on what we think could be a special car, but we will have no idea how good it is until that first qualifying session. Then the contest really will have started."

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.formula1.com/

TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Qualifying, 2.15pm. Sunday: The race live, 2am (repeated at 11.05am, highlights 11.45pm).

RICK RYCROFT



Zanardi, left, and Ralf Schumacher, the drivers Williams has chosen to carry the standard this season

ATHLETICS

British meeting continues to drop in status

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN MAEBASHI, JAPAN

GREAT Britain's most prestigious athletics meeting has been downgraded to third-division status by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). The British Grand Prix, a member of the elite division until the formation of the Golden League last year, has been relegated for the second successive season and has slipped outside the world's top 15 meetings for the first time.

After winning the men's European Cup and topping the European championships medals table last year, Britain entered 1999 as the No 2 track and field nation in the world, looking up only to the United States. Yet, in the league table of meetings, Britain has dropped behind Qatar, famous for its pearls but not its athletes.

However, for those who run the sport in Britain, there were mitigating circumstances last year. The collapse of the British Athletic Federation in October 1997 left them with an interim governing body and without the finances to underpin a top quality meeting.

The British Grand Prix, formerly held at Crystal Palace but more recently at Sheffield, was omitted from the wealthy Golden League when it began in 1998. Under the new structure, the first division effectively became the second division. Now Sheffield has been relegated from grand prix I to II and Britain's other IAAF summer international, at Gateshead, a grand prix II meeting, booted out of the league altogether.

"We are obviously very disappointed, but we are determined to get straight back to grand prix I and grand prix II status," David Moorcroft, the chief executive of UK Athletics, the new governing body, said yesterday.

It is understood that Dr Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, offered the BBC a chance to preserve Britain's grand prix I status in return for a $1 million purchase of television rights to the Golden League," but this was refused. Towards the end of last year, the IAAF indicated Sheffield's fate, but suggested that there might be room for manoeuvre. Yesterday, though, Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF secretary, said on the eve of the world indoor championships here that a letter was on its way to Moorcroft confirming the downgrading.

Sheffield had failed, Gyulai said, to meet the standards required to retain its grand prix I status. The lower status will make it more difficult to attract athletes as the number of points available towards qualifying for the grand prix final drops with each division.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.iaaf.org/WIC99
TELEVISION: BBC2, 2.45pm (highlights)

More might have to be spent in appearance fees and prize-money. Nevertheless, Britain is better equipped to deal with the summer ahead and Moorcroft was pleased with the British indoor grand prix in Birmingham last month, promoted by Fast Track.

"The BUPA grand prix proved what we can do," Moorcroft said. "We felt that last year's results were an exception and we gave the IAAF every assurance that we have the finances and infrastructure to merit grand prix status, but this was not enough."

It was not all bad news for Britain yesterday. Nebiolo said that a decision on where to stage the 2003 world championships would be delayed at least until November. The British bid for London is stuck in the blocks, waiting for the completion of the sale of Wembley Stadium.

Max Jones, Britain's performance director, expressed the hope that the athletes would maintain the momentum from 1998. In six previous world indoor championships, Great Britain has won only three gold medals. Jones is hoping for four here — from Ashia Hansen, in the triple jump, Colin Jackson, in the 60 metres hurdles, Jamie Baulch, in the 400 metres, and the men's 4 x 400 metres team.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan prepare for challenge from their peers

By Christopher Irvine



FOR A fourth summer of the JJB Super League to produce a different winner would involve Wigan Warriors, the 1998 champions, being cast as one-hit wonders — a dangerous assumption to make of any side coached by John Monie. Nevertheless, they face a more formidable challenge from Leeds Rhinos, who were runners-up last year, with a resurgent Bradford Bulls joining the fray.

Cynics argued that St Helens and Bradford won the first two Super League titles because Wigan let their standards slip, an impression that was corrected by Wigan last season. However, one of several optimistic signs for the sport is that the rest are catching Wigan up; in the case of Leeds, under Graham Murray, they may have overtaken them.

The successful introduction of the play-offs last year, combined with as many as a dozen clubs who can reasonably lay claim to the position among the top five make this the most unpredictable season for years. Rather than being dominated by one superpower, the league has three, in Leeds, Wigan and Bradford, with significant strides being taken by Warrington Wolves and Castleford Tigers.

With two former Great Britain coaches back from Australia in Ellery Hanley, at St Helens, and Malcolm Reilly, at Huddersfield Giants, another club that has caught the ambitious mood despite finishing bottom last year, there is no shortage of the determination necessary to withstand an extended 30-match programme.

One of the few disappointments of the season, which starts when Wigan play Hull Sharks at home tonight, is that the advancements made by playing once a week are being compromised by the addition of seven further fixtures, with the introduction of Gateshead Thunder and Wakefield Trinity to a 14-team competition and a series of "box-office" midweek matches. Leeds and Wigan, for instance, meet three times before the play-offs. By the time that the Great Britain squad heads off to Australia and the autumn series with that country and New Zealand — presuming that all wrinkles are ironed out by the Rugby League International Federation next week — Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, will be in a familiar position of trying to coax the best out of some tired players.

Super League Europe has to make the game pay and attract new sponsors to replace JJB after this season. It has launched a raunchy advertising campaign directed at the female market, which is in danger of confusing rugby league with a "ladies night" event. Because it was good for business in Australia does not necessarily mean it will have the same impact here.

Nonetheless, season-ticket sales are up across the board. It may not sound much, but, in these turbulent times for many professional sports, rugby league has the benefit of stability, both in financial terms, with a revised television contract up to 2003, and the knowledge that "summer" is established as the accepted season for the leading competition.

With talk of breakaways and feuds now over, the new feel is down principally to the entry of Gateshead and the professional manner in which it has been set up. A demanding season will put strains on squads, but also bring to the fore names such as Kevin Sinfield and Karl Pratt, at Leeds, and Leon Pryce and Paul Deacon, at Bradford, as British stars of the future.

By the play-offs, Wigan will have said farewell to Central Park after 97 years and moved to the 25,000-seat stadium taking shape at Robin Park — a symbol of change in a game that is heading, albeit slowly, in the right direction.

☐ Arguably the most famous number in rugby league — the 102,569 spectators at Odsal, who watched the 1954 Challenge Cup final replay between Warrington and Halifax — will disappear from the record books tomorrow.

All 110,000 tickets have been sold for the opening Australian National Rugby League double-header, between Manly and Newcastle and St George-Illawarra and Parramatta, which marks the opening of Stadium Australia, the venue for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

The final countdown

The top five clubs play elimination and qualifying play-offs. The top team in the Super League is rewarded by having to win only one play-off to reach the Grand Final, at Old Trafford on October 9. For the fifth-placed club to become champions, they would have to beat all the teams above them.

ROUND ONE (Sept 17-19): Elimination play-off: fourth v fifth. Qualifying play-off: second v third.

ROUND TWO (Sept 24-26): Elimination semi-final: qualifying play-off loser v elimination play-off winner. Qualifying semi-final: first v qualifying play-off winner.

ROUND THREE (Oct 3): Elimination final: qualifying semi-final loser v elimination semi-final winner.

GRAND FINAL: Between round-three winners.

PRIZE-MONEY: Winners: £275,000. Runners-up: £175,000. Third: £130,000. Fourth: £100,000. Fifth: £70,000.



WEBSITE: www.superleague-europe.co.uk
TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1, 7.30pm (live) and Sundays, 6.35pm



Retief Goosen plays his opening shot of the first round in Penina yesterday on his way to a 68 and a share of second place, two shots behind Smyth

Smyth's old-time sorcery spells trouble for rivals

From Mel Webb in Penina, Portugal

AS A rule, sport is demonstrably the province of the young and vigorous, but on the European tour no truck is countenanced with such ageist notions. In golf, if you're good enough, you're young enough and yesterday callow youth was left hyperventilating as one of the game's senior citizens showed them as clean a pair of heels as they will ever see.

Like Old Father Thames, Des Smyth just keeps rolling along. He is one of only eight still regularly playing European Tour events whose membership began in the days of pre-qualifying, the Russian roulette system under which competitors had to play their way into tournaments on the Mondays preceding them.

They were old-time hustlers, this brave little band, men who put their talents on the line in a hand-to-mouth existence that risked all and guaranteed nothing. Cruel though it undoubtedly was, those who survived were imbued with a toughness and a resilience that continue to serve them well, even as their golfing dotage draws nigh.

Smyth is a case in point. Yesterday was the 46th year and twentieth day of his life, which makes him the second-oldest man in the field at the Portuguese Open, but there was nothing remotely venerable about his golf, a 66 giving him a two-stroke lead on a course on which preferred lies are being used because of a lack of consistent growth on the fairways.

Throughout his career, Smyth, who played his 500th European Tour event at the Dubai Desert Classic three weeks ago, has been possessed of a sorcerer's touch on and around the greens. Give him a wedge or a putter and ask him to demonstrate what he can do with it, then marvel as everything short of a Rachmaninov piano concerto will issue forth.

It was with the short-distance clubs that he built his six-under-par score. He chipped in twice for two of his seven birdies and took only 24 putts. Come to think of it, perhaps that snatch of music that wafted across the course in mid-morning might have been the big Rachmaninov number after all.

The Irishman was, naturally, quietly pleased with himself, but he has been around too long to get carried away. "An awful lot can happen between now and Sunday," he said. "This was just one good round, that's all."

Having played indifferently in his first two appearances of the season, he said that he had scared himself into playing well in the face of ever-improving standards being produced by the next generation. "The 66 was due less to confidence, more to fear," he said. "These days I feel like a hare in a coursing race."

He will probably be caught today, hounds being the dogged sorts they are. But for now, it did not matter; for now, it was Hare 66, Hounds 68 or worse.

Scores, page 48

US-based Swede in Ryder Cup picture

From John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent, in Miami

EVEN six months before the event, the Ryder Cup is dominating golf. Ben Crenshaw is taking a high profile as he seeks to whip up enthusiasm and support for his United States team at Boston in September. Meanwhile, a little-known name has forced itself into the list of of candidates for the Europe team. Mention the name Gabriel Hjertstedt to most followers of the game in Great Britain and they probably would not have a clue who he is. That could be about to change.

While all eyes were on the World Match Play Championship in La Costa, California last week, Hjertstedt was winning a tournament in Tucson, Arizona, for those players on the US PGA Tour not ranked in the world's top 65. It was his second victory in North America. In 1997, he won the BC Open.

Yesterday, he coped well with the famed Blue Monster course in the opening round of the Doral-Ryder Open, still on a high after his victory on Sunday. "That gave me a lot more confidence," he said. "When I started today, I thought to myself: 'This is a new week. Go for it.'" A 69, three under par, put him a stroke behind the early leaders — Esteban Toledo, Doug Barron and Olin Browne. Jesper Parnevik had a 71, Thomas Bjorn a 72 and Nick Faldo a 73.

Hjertstedt, 27, is slight, quietly-spoken and, being dark-haired, looks more American than Swedish. Though born in Sweden, he lived in Australia for 12 years before moving first to the West Coast of the United States and then to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

He believes that he needs to win at least one more tournament over here to come into the reckoning for Mark James's Europe team, for which he is eligible as a member of the European Tour. "If I do so, I will certainly have a chance," he said. "I would love to play in it. I think it would be nerve-racking, but I would like to see some of the fellows I played junior golf with again."

Faldo salvaged what was a disappointing round by single-putting his last three greens and taking birdies on two of the holes. There was a testing wind to add to the difficulties of this 7,125-yard course where Faldo won in 1995 when he rejoined the US PGA Tour. Such victories seem a long time ago now. He was muttering to himself as he strode off in the direction of the putting green and practice ground having confessed: "I am still not hitting it full blast."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 46 – More on responder's second bid

The principles governing responder's second bid are similar to those on the first round. I will first look at the situation where opener has shown a minimum hand. If responder has:

(a) a minimum hand (say 6-9 HCP), he should either pass or give simple preference to opener's first suit (i.e. put opener back to his first suit at the minimum level;
(b) something extra (10-12 HCP with a fit or 11-12 without a fit) he should make an invitational bid;
(c) 13 HCP or more, he should make sure game is reached.

Here are some examples. Suppose the bidding has started 1♡–1♠–2♡:

	(A)	(B)	(C)
♠	K Q 4 3	A 9 8 6 5 2	K J 10 5
♡	4 3	5	Q 3
♢	Q J 10 7 2	K 5 4	A J 9 7
♣	7 6	J 5 4	10 9 7

	(D)	(E)	(F)
♠	A 10 5 4 2	Q J 7 6	A 10 6 5 3
♡	K 4 3	A 2	A 6 4
♢	A 4	Q 10 7	K J 5 4
♣	10 6 5	A 10 4 2	3

Hand (A) is not that bad a hand but there is little prospect of game facing a minimum Two Heart rebid. Pass. On *Hand (B)* it may be tempting to bid Two Spades but how many hearts do you think partner has? Remember, he would open One No-Trump if he was balanced (no void, no singleton and no more than one doubleton), so his distribution cannot be 5-3-3-2. If he is 5-4-2-2 he would bid his four-card suit in preference to rebidding his hearts, ergo he has a six-card suit. There is no reason to be afraid of a Two Heart contract. It is better to let things drop as quickly as possible. Pass.

Hands (C) and *(D)* both have 11 HCP, worth a game invitation. You have already shown your spade suit, so with *Hand (C)* bid Two No-Trumps and with *Hand (D)* bid Three Hearts.

Hands (E) and *(F)* are similar but a little stronger. Now you want to ensure that game is reached so bid Three No-Trumps and Four Hearts respectively.

These hands have been relatively straightforward because the right *denomination* has been fairly clear. This has meant that you could either bid game or make a sensible limit bid, depending on your values. It is not always as easy as that. Next week I will look at some examples of how to investigate further when you are not sure what trumps should be.

☐ You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 26p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Psyched out

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, continued his winning ways in the ninth round of the elite tournament at Linares by dispatching Vassily Ivanchuk for the second time. Kasparov now leads with 7/9, a colossal score in a tournament of this strength, by a 1½ point margin over his closest rival, Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster.

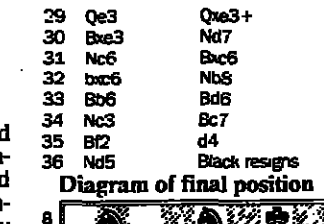
However, the most striking thing about Kasparov's win against Ivanchuk is that the Ukrainian grandmaster, awed by Kasparov's dominating presence at the board, may have resigned prematurely.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Linares 1999

Queen's Gambit Accepted

	White	Black
1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	Nf3	e6
4	e3	c5
5	Bxc4	a6
6	0-0	Nf6
7	Bb3	Nc6
8	Nc3	cxd4
9	exd4	Be7
10	Re1	0-0
11	a3	Na5
12	Bc2	b5
13	d5	Nc4
14	Qd3	Re8
15	a4	exd5
16	axb5	a5
17	b3	Nd6
18	Nd4	Bb7
19	f3	Rc8
20	Na4	Bf8
21	Bg5	g6
22	Qd2	Rxe1+
23	Rxe1	Nde8
24	Re2	Bb4
25	Qe3	Rc7
26	Bd3	Re7
27	Qc1	Rxe2
28	Bxe2	Qe7
29	Qe3	Qxe3+
30	Bxe3	Nd7
31	Nc6	Bxc6
32	bxc6	Nb8
33	Bb6	Bd6
34	Nc3	Bc7
35	Bf2	d4
36	Nd5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Saving clause

Here Ivanchuk resigned, assuming that after 36 ... Nxc6 (if Black cannot play this, then his position really is hopeless) 37 Bb5 White would win a piece. However, after 36 ... Nxc6 37 Bb5 Nb4! 38 Nxb4 Nd6 White can do no better than 39 Bd3 axb4 40 Bxd4 when White is certainly better, but Black can continue to resist.

Score recap

Full scores out of nine are as follows: Kasparov 7; Kramnik 5½; Anand 5; Adams 4½; Topalov and Leko 4; Svidler and Ivanchuk 3.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PISOLITHS
a. Kidney stones
b. Leaning columns
c. Rock particles

STERADIAN
a. Denture cleanser
b. Geometrical quantity
c. Starlit satellite

CISEAUX PAS
a. A ballet step
b. A false move
c. The opening bid

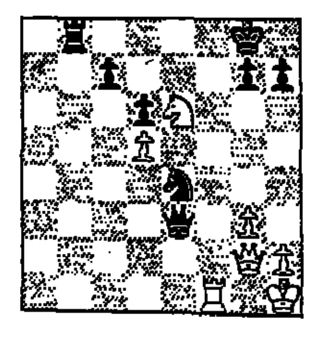
COUVADE
a. Lingerie
b. Espionage
c. Natal ritual

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Weiss — Deshmukh, Elista 1998. With his extra pawn and active pieces, Black seems to be doing well but White's next move forced a revision of this assessment. How did he continue?



Solution on page 50

European Cup: Ferguson eyes semi-final place after fine display at Old Trafford

United look forward to next hurdle

By Matt Dickinson

ALEX FERGUSON could relax yesterday, seemingly surrounded by the riches of Croesus. The official launch of his testimonial had heralded a year that will see him add at least £1 million, tax free, to his salary as manager of Manchester United. And then there was the wealth accrued by his team the previous night, as they banked a 2-0 victory in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final against Internazionale.

It was a typically daredevil triumph by this United side, who toyed with a 5-0 rout as well as late disaster, but they did enough to convince most inside Old Trafford, and quite probably the San Siro, that the semi-finals beckon. Ferguson would not admit as much yesterday, but his satisfaction was as transparent as Inter's plummeting morale. "We will score over there," Ferguson insisted for at least the fifth time since Wednesday night and he is adamant that not even the return of Ronaldo can threaten his side's well-earned advantage.

He is probably right and such was the self-belief fostered by United's triumph at a bubbling Old Trafford that the mind could not stop racing ahead to the tests that may lie ahead. The route to the final in Barcelona on May 26 is already being plotted, with Bayern Munich, Juventus and Dynamo Kiev the most likely possible semi-final opponents.

All are clubs of impressive stature, but the style of the victory on Wednesday night has thrown up tantalising thoughts that United can match, and beat, the best. It is not just in Ferguson's eyrie at The Cliff training ground that such presumptuous calculations are taking place. The Football Association's international sub-committee refuses to accept the Scotsman's protestations that not only is he reluctant to manage England, but incapable of it because of his Govan breeding.

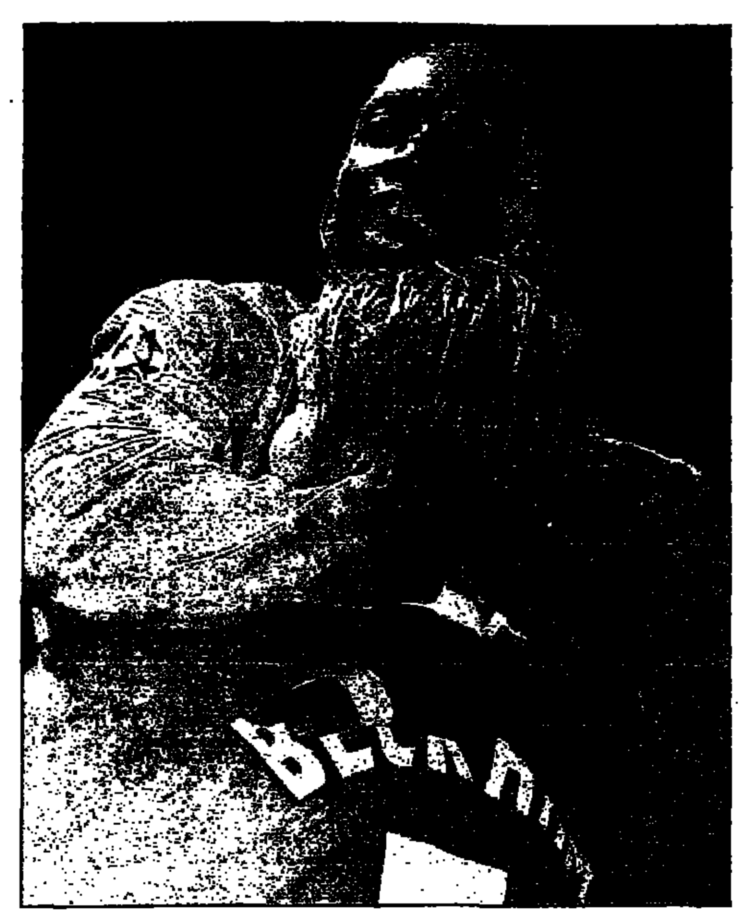
The committee men cling to the hope that he and Brian Kidd can be persuaded to resume their coaching partnership if United win the European Cup. A few minutes with Ferguson yesterday would have persuaded them that they are wasting their time. First, there was the unveiling of a testimonial year that will not be quite the same if the principal beneficiary has jumped ship. More significantly, there were Ferguson's words, which undermined the notion that the first thing he will do upon lifting the European Cup is look for pastures new, if not retire altogether after 25 years in management.

"Are you saying that you wake up the next morning, and all of a sudden your work is finished?" he said. "I enjoy working, it's the best part of your life." On Wednesday night, it was not hard to imagine that he had one of the best jobs imaginable. It was not United at their best — they would have won by five if Giggs and Cole had been on target — but there was enormous comfort to be drawn from the displays of Peter Schmeichel, Dwight Yorke and David Beckham. Beckham's performance was notable not just for the excellence of his passes, two of which furnished Yorke with his headed goals, but for the strength with which he handled his reunion with Diego Simeone.

It was the England international who initiated the swapping of shirts with his Argentinian counterpart after the game — "I will probably frame it," he said — and he chatted afterwards as though he was at ease with the world. "That ends it all, I hope," he said and perhaps now even opposing fans in the FA Carling Premiership will allow his talent to breathe a little easier. Beckham thought United had "probably done enough" to look forward to the semi-finals, although the Inter revival in the final half-hour suggested that the second leg will not be without its dramas.

The Italians came close to snatching a precious away goal and United's inability to close a match down remains a maddening flaw. There are signs, though, that, like Beckham, the team is maturing. They are less prone to the loss of discipline that Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Borussia Dortmund coach, put down to them wanting European success too much and although harder tests await than Inter, United appear ready for any challenge.

DAN CHUNG AND ANDREW COMAS





Consistent goalscorers such as Yorke, left, celebrating with Beckham, and Shevchenko are worth their weight in gold to their teams

Shevchenko sets goal standard

By Rob Hughes

The importance of a goalscorer has never been more earnest than in the European Cup. Be it Dwight Yorke, Andrei Shevchenko, Filippo Inzaghi or Giovane Elber — each of whom scored on Wednesday night — the mathematical fact is that he who scores the first goal does not lose the game in Europe. That holds good for 84 per cent of the 76 matches played this season.

Small wonder that Manchester United feel vindicated by the £12 million fee that they paid for Yorke and that Dynamo Kiev have resisted more than £15 million for Shevchenko. It is the ability of Yorke to remain composed when opportunity knocks, the cold nerve of Shevchenko to finish where others freeze, that makes them exceptions in a team sport.

If United and Kiev press home their advantage in the second legs of their quarter-final ties, and if they avoid each other in the semi-finals, who knows how much the value of those two players will rise by the time of the final in Barcelona in May?

It is an inexorable law of the football business that goals are gold in the bank, but, just as Yorke can put them in only when someone provides the ball as exquisitely as David Beckham, so Shevchenko relies on an almost telepathic partnership. In the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, Ian St John, who preceded the remarkable duo of Kevin Keegan and John Toshack at Liverpool, had some telling observations after Toshack's Real Madrid were held 1-1 at home by Kiev.

"He's some striker, Shevchenko, but the other one is the better player," St John said. "The other one, Sergei Rebrov, is a Russian among Ukrainians. He does not have the startling pace, the greed for goals or the athletic stamina of Shevchenko, yet Rebrov is the Ukraine player of the year for the second time. What Rebrov does better than Shevchenko is share the ball. He sees more, he instigates more and, although Shevchenko has scored 15 goals in 25 European Cup games, Rebrov created the opening for him again this week.

"I can find my partner with my eyes closed," Rebrov had said, and this time he probably did. It was route-one football, the ball kicked long by Olexander Shovkosky, the goalkeeper, and Rebrov, all 5ft 6in of him, outjumping Fernando Hierro, the big Real Madrid defender. That released Shevchenko — who, of course, had to anticipate his team-mate leaping so high — one-on-one with Bodo Illgner, the Real Madrid goalkeeper. No contest. Shevchenko scored low and precisely.

Though Predrag Mijatovic, whose goal won the European Cup final last season, equalised with a free kick, Real Madrid missed further chances that fell to Mijatovic, Morientes and Raúl. In the second leg, when Kiev should be thawing out, Real Madrid will need the kind of inspiration that Juventus found last year to turn a 1-1 home leg draw into a 5-2 aggregate win.

Inzaghi scored for Juventus three times in Kiev, but only once in the Stadio delle Alpi on Wednesday, where Olympiakos forced a late penalty to go home with only a 2-1 deficit. "We came off the pitch physically and morally destroyed," Inzaghi said. "We deserved more and I could have scored twice more, but the referee allowed four minutes of injury time and the penalty came in the sixth minute. We will have to show our team spirit in Greece."

In Germany there is one truly captivating striker, and he is Brazilian. Like Yorke, like Shevchenko, Elber comes alive under Europe's big lights and, on the half-hour, with a typical volley, he began Bayern Munich's 2-0 defeat of Kaiserslautern.

"They are the better team, that's obvious," Otto Rehhagel, the Kaiserslautern trainer, said, "but the fear that Bayern would totally outclass us didn't happen and it does not mean we can't qualify." However, Rehhagel senses that the loss of Olaf Marschall, his main goalscorer, from the first leg, and probably through the same knee injury for the return match, could dull Kaiserslautern's edge.

In Europe, as the facts demonstrate, you are lost without the presence of a genuine striker and someone to trigger him. So while Grigory Surkis, the Kiev chairman, discusses the price for Shevchenko with AC Milan, a really smart and really rich buyer might offer Ukraine's champion club £30 million for Shevchenko and Rebrov. It is only money and the European Cup appears sometimes as if it invents the stuff.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

Villa end pursuit of Stubbs

■ ASTON VILLA have called off their attempt to sign Alan Stubbs, the Celtic central defender. Villa increased their offer from £3.25 million to £4.25 million, but Celtic refused to budge from their original asking price of £6.5 million.

John Gregory, the Villa manager, said: "I've said all along that I will not be held to ransom over this or any other deal. As far as I'm concerned, the deal is dead. We made our final offer. Celtic said they were not prepared to drop their price and we will now be looking elsewhere."

■ If Chelsea and Manchester United draw their FA Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford on Sunday, they will play the replay only three days later. The second game will take place at Stamford Bridge on March 10, replacing Chelsea's match against Middlesbrough and Manchester United's game away to Liverpool in the FA Carling Premiership. The move has been made because of the clubs' involvement in Europe, when any replay should have been played.

■ Steve Stone, the unsettled Nottingham Forest midfield player, has reiterated his desire to leave the City Ground. "When I signed my last contract, I said I wanted to be at a club with the same ambition as me — a club which thought it was going places. For whatever reasons, that hasn't happened," he said. Forest are still hopeful of signing Richard Gough, the former Rangers defender.

■ Paul Gascoigne, the Middlesbrough midfield player, has been suspended for one match and fined £2,000 by the Football Association for reaching 11 bookings this season.

■ Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, is confident that Emile Heskey, the England Under-21 striker, will be fit to face Tottenham Hotspur in the Worthington Cup final on March 21. A scan on the back injury that has dogged Heskey for the past three months revealed no serious damage.

■ Lyngby, the Danish club, have rejected an offer of £1.8 million from Sunderland for Carsten Fredgaard, a 22-year-old attacking midfield player.

■ Alan Curbishley, the Charlton Athletic manager, has been named Carling Manager of the Month for February after a four-match unbeaten run.

Hendrie bides his time in quest for glory



Oliver Holt sees how Barnsley are coping with life outside the Premiership

The builders are still in at Barnsley. Yellow dump trucks groaned their way up and down hills of soil at Oakwell yesterday as work continues on the improvement of the stadium. Mud caught in the wheels of the players' BMWs and Toyota Land Cruisers as they sped away into the Yorkshire gloom. The big-time bestowed plenty of benefits on the club during its doomed but feisty one-season flirtation with the FA Carling Premiership.

Tomorrow, the big time is back in town. Not to linger like it did before, but like a long-lost love on a flying visit. The cold touch of reality has invaded the romanticism that clung to Barnsley last season as they fought to avoid relegation. The Nationwide League has not been kind to them and this morning, far from pressing for an immediate return to the top flight, they lie sixteenth in the first division. They still have 14,000 loyal season ticket-holders and a warmth and courtesy uncommon even in the football clubs of the North, but they have not scored for the past four games, have lost their two best players, Ashley Ward and Neil Redfearn, and their manager, Danny Wilson, who is masterminding Sheffield Wednesday's tentative revival a few miles away.

Their hopes this season rest now on the evident ability and candour of John Hendrie, their impressive young manager, and on the visit of Tottenham Hotspur tomorrow. A place in the FA Cup semi-finals is at stake, an honour that eluded them even in their glory days.

They did beat Manchester United in the competition last season, on a memorable night at Oakwell when Hendrie was one of the scorers.

He has exiled those memories from his mind, though. Wilson was a folk hero in Barnsley, the man who led the side, against all odds and to the astonishment of the football community at large, into the promised land amid the fat cats and billion-dollar corporations. Nothing Hendrie does can equal such an impact.

Once Barnsley succumbed to the drop, in fact, and lost all the television money that comes with Premiership status, they were condemned to a lowering of their sights. Those who expected them to go straight back up have been swiftly disillusioned, but Hendrie has refused to lose his composure.

"People say that it must have been hard following Danny Wilson," he said yesterday in one of the executive suites overlooking Oakwell, "but I do not live in the shadow of anyone. You have just got to be your own man and do it your own way. That was a different era and I was lucky enough to play a big part in it. The supporters here are not content with what is happening now. They have had a taste of the big time and they want more. There is a high expectancy level and there is no way that we will settle for the Nationwide League.



Hendrie: realistic approach

"But you have to remember that Danny was here for four years and he didn't get it right for the first two. It won't happen overnight for me either. I have been in the game all my life and I am not muggins enough to think like that. If some thought we would go straight back up, I was not one of them."

Tomorrow, George Graham will bring David Ginola, Steffen Freund, Darren Anderton and the rest of his internationals back to Barnsley as they try to move closer to a second Wembley appearance this season. For Hendrie, fresh from his latest reverse, the 1-0 home defeat by Bradford City on Wednesday, the game represents a welcome respite from league woes and another chance to advance his managerial education.

"It has been a pretty steep learning process," he said. "I did not even have a wee bit of an apprenticeship. The biggest shock was the amount of hours I have had to put in. At times, it means you can't have any family life. I realise now that, for the 18 years of my playing career, I was on my holidays. You don't realise how lucky you are."

Tomorrow, against a Spurs team sweeping all before them in the cups, the hard work is likely to become even harder.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm 83 Leicester Riders 81

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): *Philadelphia 102 Chicago 86;* Washington 95 Indiana 106; Orlando 93 Charlotte 76, Milwaukee 106 Golden State 78, Utah 109 Vancouver 86, Los Angeles Lakers 101 Phoenix 95, Sacramento 93 Portland 97 (OT).

BOWLS

EXETER: EWIBA indoor championships: Fours: Quarter-finals: J Miller, A Singleton, M Vandrau and D Lewis (Sutton) bt T Broxon, J Brown, J Watson and V Bambrough (Sunderland) 24-15; *P Maskery, A Allmond, K Hawes and S Lacey (Cherwell)* bt D Gray, A Berry, D Marshall and J Young (Taunton) 17-14, P Stevens, J Clayton, M Brooke and S Chilton (York) bt L Cowell, A Fearnley, I Parker and M Norgate (David Lloyd) 19-16 **Two-wood triples: Quarter-finals:** S Evans, R Smart and J Quick (Taunton Deane) bt L Smith, M Stophor and H Griffiths (King George Field) 22-8; J Webb, S Ellison and P Burton (Tamworth) bt A Anderson, S Andrews and M Shaw (Darlington) 25-17; S Garrick, J Morris and J Edson (Lincoln) bt C Beahan, C Winter and D Hankin (Egham) 12-11; M Ellett, A Green and S Harriott (Isca) bt P Taylor, J Dowsett and E Schooling (Essex Co) 19-11.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: First day of four: Brisbane: Victoria 188 (B J Hodge 71), Queensland 83-0 **Sydney:** New South Wales 312-5 (M G Bevan 128 not out, S Lee 69, M A Taylor 61) v South Australia. **Perth:** Western Australia 330-5 (M E Hussey 125 not out, T M Moody 109) v Tasmania.

FOOTBALL

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-final, first leg

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Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Bayern Munich 2 Kaiserslautern 0; Juventus 2 Olympiakos 1, Man Utd 2 Internazionale 0; Real Madrid 1 Dynamo Kiev 1

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: *Sheffield Wednesday 1 Wimbledon 2.*

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 0 Bradford 1, QPR 1 Oxford Utd 0, Swindon 2 Tranmere 3

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Clydebank 2 Dundee Utd 2.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge 4 Hampton 0.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fraserburgh 3 Keith 4.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Bulgaria 2 Slovakia 0 (in Stara Zagora), Poland 1 Armenia 0 (in Warsaw), Romania 2 Estonia 0 (in *Bucharest).*

GOLF

PENINA, Portugal: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): *66: D Smyth 68: R Goosen (SA),* M A Jiménez (Sp), K Tomori (Japan), S Luña (Sp), *F Jacobson (Swe),* J Van de Velde (Fr) **69:** F Valera (Sp), S Torrance, D Gilford, M Scarpa (It), R Karlsson (Swe) **70:** S Webster, J Rivero (Sp), I Garbutt, R May (US), R Winchester **71:** A Oldcorn, P Lawrie, A Coltart, A Cejka (Ger), P Fulke (Swe), A Wall, J Bickerton, R Boxall, P Mitchell, C Hainline (US), A Johnstone (Zim), M Jonzon (Swe), H Clark, J Rose, F Cea (Sp), R Wessels (SA), P Affleck, P Linhart (Swe)

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles 4 Newcastle Riverkings 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 3 Edmonton 5, Carolina 2 Boston 1; Florida 5 Colorado 7, Pittsburgh 4 Montreal 4 (OT); Toronto 2 New Jersey 5; Vancouver 3 San Jose 4, Anaheim 2 Los Angeles 1

OXFORD TORPIDS

MEN: First division: Pembroke bpd Oriel; Christ Church bpd Magdalen, Exeter bpd Brasenose; Worcester bpd Brasenose; Queen's bpd Lincoln, St Catherine's bpd University. **Second division:** Merton bpd Trinity, St Peter's bpd St John's, LMH bpd St John's; Keble bpd Hertford **Third division:** Osler-Green bpd St Anne's, Corpus Christi bpd St Anne's; Wolfson bpd Linacre. Christ Church II bpd Pembroke II; Pembroke II bpd Keble II, Balliol II bpd New College II; Somerville bpd St Hugh's; St Hugh's bpd *New College II* **Fourth division:** Somerville bpd University II, Oriel III bpd University II; Lincoln II bpd University II, St John's II bpd Brasenose II, Wadham II bpd St Anne's II; Exeter II bpd St Anne's II, St Catherine's II bpd Wolfson II **Fifth division:** St Catherine's II bpd Worcester II; Queen's II bpd Worcester II, Jesus II bpd Worcester II; St Peter's II bpd Merton II, Merton II bpd Worcester II; Magdalen III bpd Hertford II, Hertford II bpd Worcester II, St Benet's Hall bpd Worcester II, Trinity II bpd University IV **Women: First division:** New College bpd St Catherine's; Wadham bpd LMH; Pembroke bpd Oriel, Lincoln bpd Oriel, Somerville bpd Christ Church; Christ Church bpd Oriel; Merton bpd St John's. **Second division:** Merton bpd Trinity, Wolfson bpd Trinity; St Edmund Hall bpd St Hilda's, St Hilda's bpd Trinity; Balliol bpd Worcester; Magdalen bpd Worcester; St Peter's bpd Hertford, Hertford bpd Keble. **Third division:** Mansfield bpd St Hugh's, Exeter bpd Linacre. LMH II bpd St Catherine's II, Merton II bpd Wolfson II. Wolfson II bpd Wadham II; St Antony's bpd Wadham II.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University 19 Penguins 52; Oxford University 36 Oxfordshire 31, Rosslyn Park 21 Royal Navy 19.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3b (Yokohama to Shanghai; with miles to finish). *Equal 1, Senca (R Dean) and Ariel* (A Thomson) 654. 3, Taeping (N Fleming) 655. 4, Thermopylae (M Tod) 672; 5, Antiope (K Harris) 700. 6, Mermerus (B Sollars) 702; 7, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 703.

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Thailand Masters: Second round: J Parrott (Eng) bt S Lee (Eng) 5-3; S Davis (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 5-1; J Higgins (Scot) bt M King (Eng) 5-3. M Williams (Wales) bt E Henderson (Scot) 5-3. S *Hendry (Scot) bt A Robidoux (Can) 5-1. K* Doherty (Ire) bt J Wattana (Thai) 5-2; D Morgan (Wales) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-1.

SWIMMING

IMPERIA, Italy: World Cup: Short-course event: Winners: Men: Freestyle: 50m: L Vismara (It) 22.30sec **British placing:** 5, S Brunn 22.57. **200m:** M Rosolino (It) 1min 47.80sec. **British placings:** 4, A Clayton 1:48.49. 7, Brunn 1:50.36 **1,500m:** L Lima (Br) 14:55.44 **Backstroke: 50m:** T Karlo (Cro) 25.00 **200m:** Fu Yong (China) 1:58.16. ***British placing:*** *6, N Willey 2:00.11.* **Breaststroke: 100m:** P Fowler (US) 1:00.97. **British placing:** 4, R Maden 1:01.89. **Butterfly: 100m:** D Silantiev (Ukr) 52.66. **Medley: 200m:** M Woude (Holl) 1:58.19. **Women: Freestyle: 100m:** S Völker (Ger) 54.22. **400m:** S Szalai (Ger) 4:08.13. **British placings:** 3, S Collings 4:13.33; 4, N Brown 4:14.01. 5, N Jackson 4:14.44 **Backstroke: 100m:** Y Sato (Japan) 1:00.89. **Breaststroke: 50m:** A Kovacs (Hun) 31.42. **200m:** Kovacs 2:23.79. **Butterfly: 50m:** J Sjoberg (Swe) 26.87. **200m:** M Jacobsen (Den) 2:08.47. **Medley: 100m:** Xue Han (China) *1:01.10* ***400m:*** *Y Klochkova (Ukr) 4:34.56.* **World Cup winners: Men: Freestyle: Sprint:** A Luderitz (Ger). **Distance:** J Hoffmann (Ger). **Backstroke:** S Theloke (Ger) **Breaststroke:** F Deburghgraeve (Bel) **Butterfly:** Silantiev. **Medley:** No winner declared **Women: Freestyle: Sprint:** K Meissner (Ger) **Distance:** C Poll (C Rica). **Backstroke:** A Buschschulte (Ger) **Breaststroke:** P Heyns (SA). **Butterfly:** Sjoberg. **Medley:** Klochkova.

TENNIS

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Franklin Templeton Classic: Second round: J Golmard (Fr) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 3-5, ret; C Pioline (Fr) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; L Hewitt (Aus) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 6-1; A Agassi (US) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-2, 6-0.

COPENHAGEN OPEN: First round: M Rosset (Switz) bt G Canas (Arg) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. **Second round:** R Schuttler (Ger) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-3, 7-6; W Black (Zim) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 7-6, 6-3, D Nestor (Can) bt M Rosset (Switz) 7-6, 6-4, M Gustafsson *(Swe) bt N Godwin (SA) 6-3, 6-7, 7-5.*

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

Third division

Cardiff v Chester

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v TNS

FAI HARP SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-final: Galway v St Patrick's Athletic (7.45)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Nottingham Forest

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Aston Villa v Fulham (2.0). **Under-17:** Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough (1.30), Aston Villa v Fulham (2.0)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: First division: Hartlepool v Scarborough (1.0) **Third division:** Grimsby v Darlington (1.0).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Littlehampton v Chichester.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Wigan v Hull (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

A international matches

France v Wales (at Périgueux, 6.0)

Ireland v England (at Donnybrook, 5.0)

Scotland v Italy (at Galashiels, 7.0)

Under-21 International matches

France v Wales (at Bordeaux, 6.0)

Ireland v England (at St Mary's College, Dublin, 2.0)

Scotland v Italy (at Old Anniesland, Glasgow, 6.30)

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup

Quarter-finals

Moseley v Bedford (7.30)

Sale v Northampton (7.45)

CLUB MATCH: Worcester v Coventry (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Milton Keynes Lions v Worthing Bears (7.30); Newcastle Eagles v Edinburgh Rocks (7.30)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: *Nottingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers (7.30).*

Aylesbury give Harding new mission

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

JOHN HARDING was yesterday appointed manager of Aylesbury United, the leaders of the Ryman League premier division, in succession to Bob Dowie, who was dismissed last week.

Harding resigned from Farnborough Town on Monday, citing the failure of the Nationwide Conference club to supply money promised to help him to lead the fight against relegation.

As at Farnborough, Harding has been given a specific brief: to lead Aylesbury into the Conference — with the promise of the job full-time next season if he succeeds. He will work with Peter Wright, the director of football, and Warren Kelly and Cliff Hercules, the senior players, to try to keep the club on an even keel.

Bill Carroll, the chairman, said: "Given the circumstances we are in, I believe John fits the bill very nicely. He is a top-notch coach, has good knowledge of the Conference and is a chirpy, bubbly and enthusiastic character."

Ted Hardy, 69, signed off as manager of Dagenham and Redbridge in style with a 4-0 victory over Hampton at Victoria Road on Wednesday night. Dave Andrews, the chairman of the Ryman League club, said: "At the start of the season, he said it would be his last year.

"We've spoken about it at times and agreed now was the right time for him to step down and give us the chance to look in earnest for a new manager for next season. He's been superb; you cannot say enough for him."

Dagenham are to hold a testimonial match for Hardy against West Ham United on May 4 and have entrusted the reins to John Bennett, Hardy's assistant, while searching for a replacement.

Hardy looks back ruefully on a season that promised much but failed to deliver. "We were hit by injuries and, like most clubs at this level, it leaves you in trouble because you cannot field as big a squad as you would like," he said. "It's the same for every manager so I'm not putting it forward as an excuse, but I wasn't once this season able to put out the side I imagined."

BOWLS

Cherwell quartet stay on course for record

CHERWELL, who are hoping to win the women's national indoor fours title for the third time in four years, stayed on target to achieve that feat when they edged past Taunton in a hard-fought quarter-final in Exeter yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

Pauline Maskery, Ann Allmond, Kath Hawes and Sue Lacey defeated Melton Mowbray 21-13, then faced a Taunton team skipped by Jill Young, who took them all the way to the line before Cherwell prevailed 17-14.

Those who believe that Hawes, who represented England in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, is the secret of Cherwell's success had to admit that her three colleagues make an important contribution, too. In the semi-finals today, Cherwell meet Sutton, who beat Cambridge Chesterton, 22-16, and Sunderland, 24-15.

West Country competitors have not fared well in these championships, but local spirits soared yesterday when Margaret Ellett, Audrey Green and Sue Harriott, from Isca, the host club, reached the semi-finals of the two-wood triples, as did Sue Evans, Ross Stuart and Jean Quick, of Taunton Deane.

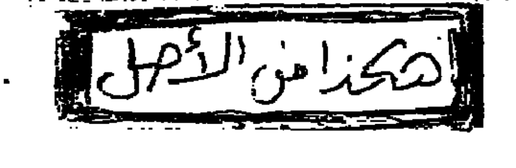
SPORT IN BRIEF

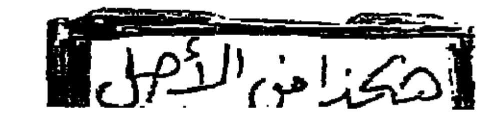
■ **TENNIS:** Greg Rusedski has confirmed his entry for the Nottingham Open in June, giving himself another chance to win a title on British soil this year. The British No 2, who was beaten by Richard Krajicek last week in the final of the Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea, won the event in 1997. Patrick Hughesman, the tournament director, said: "Rusedski is one of the world's best grass-court players."

■ **GOLF:** Ernie Els and David Howell have won the first two European Golfer of the Month awards for 1999. Els, of South Africa, won the South African PGA title and Howell, of England, the Dubai Desert Classic. They were given the awards by a panel of the Association of Golf Writers.

■ **JIM PETERS:** The memorial service for Jim Peters, the former Olympic marathon runner, who died on January 9, will be at St Margaret's, Lothbury, in the City of London, at midday on March 25. Among those giving readings or addresses will be Cliff Morgan, David Bedford and Richard Nerurkar.

■ **ICE SKATING:** Leading skaters will take to the ice at the SKK Stadium in St Petersburg, Russia, tonight for the opening rounds of the International Skating Union Grand Prix final. The winners in each discipline will receive $50,000, plus $10,000 appearance money, while even those in fifth place will earn $18,000.





RUGBY UNION

Ireland try to correct balance of expectation

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

WARREN GATLAND, the Ireland coach, sounded a timely note of caution yesterday amid the rising anticipation of tomorrow's Five Nations Championship match against England at Lansdowne Road.

Such is the interest in the match that black-market tickets are said to be changing hands for I£600, but Gatland knows that his side is far from the finished article.

"If Ireland, Scotland or Wales had achieved England's recent results, they would be over the moon," Gatland said. "England have set high standards, which may make them vulnerable when they expect to do well, but makes them that much more dangerous when they come under pressure. It brings out the best in them, brings them closer together as a team.

"We are still learning to take our opportunities, to be consistent for 80 minutes. Against Wales, we panicked a bit, tried to defend a lead and stopped playing rugby. But we are learning how to finish a game ... and I don't think any Ireland player would not fancy his chances against his opposite number on Saturday."

At least Gatland knows that his side will go the distance, having finished so strongly against South Africa and Wales. "We now have a group of people who believe in themselves, who believe they can compete with any side." Donal Lenihan, the manager, said. "It may be a compliment to us that England arrived on Tuesday to prepare; on the other hand, it also shows their professionalism."

England, so deeply disappointed with their narrow victory over Scotland, have begun already the process of rehabilitation. Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, whose play and tactical approach have come under fire over the past ten days, accepts the criticism. "If the team performs badly, the responsibility falls on me, but you can be sure that, behind closed doors, everyone accepts a degree of responsibility," he said.

"We will be meeting an Ireland side on top of their game, but, on the positive side, we have a lot of experienced players who know the Five Nations and who know what it takes to win in Dublin.

"The expectation on us is huge after the win over South Africa in December. The public want success, but they also want it with style. We are looking for consistency of performance, which should lead to the results that everyone wants. I have belief in my ability as a player and captain and that has been reinforced by the coach and by the team."

Dallaglio shrugs off any suggestion that the back row chosen for tomorrow is not the best available. He has played No 8 for Wasps, for England and for the British Isles and feels thoroughly at home in a position that carries with it an enhanced level of decision-making. However, it might assist England's performance if he and Richard Hill refrain from swopping positions during the game against an Ireland pack that will severely examine England's defence.

Neil Back, an integral player in that area, acknowledged that the absence of Will Greenwood, the powerful centre, has been a blow to England. Not only can Greenwood create space for other backs, he offers the back row an obvious target. It would be wrong to expect the same from Jonathan Wilkinson, his replacement, though young Wilkinson is keen to take on a greater attacking role than against Scotland, which indicates both competence and, more significantly, confidence.



DAVID ROGERS/ALLSPORT

Dallaglio, the England captain, a towering presence yesterday below the turrets of the team's training headquarters

Henry works for better days

Mark Souster finds that the Wales coach is a fan of the Five Nations

Wales arrived in Paris yesterday led by Graham Henry, their coach from New Zealand, for whom the match tomorrow against France will be a first taste of international rugby in the French capital.

Henry has previously admitted to being taken aback by the passion and intensity generated in the Five Nations Championship; on Wednesday, he reiterated his feelings. In response to a question about whether he felt the championship should be played on a home and away basis, as in the Tri-Nations tournament between New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, he said: "What we have now is the best international tournament in the world. Let's keep it that way."

Henry considers the skills level in the southern hemisphere to be superior, as is the tier of competition immediately below internationals, but he added: "That is taking nothing away from the intensity and expectation of the Five Nations. They are huge games. In New Zealand, you don't have 75,000-capacity stadiums."

It is rather cruel, then, given Henry's fondness for a tournament that has often been dismissed in disparaging terms by other New Zealanders, that it has kicked him and Wales in the teeth so far — with every prospect of further poundings at the hands of France this weekend, and then England.

> 'There's a vital need for things to be resolved'

How the expectation of the autumn has evaporated so swiftly has been and will continue to be the subject of endless analysis. Henry has his own theories, which he has made known, but he insists that he does not want them to be taken as excuses for a lack of success.

"There are obviously things behind the scenes that, if they were put right, would be of immense help," he said. "There's a vital need for people in Welsh rugby to walk down the same road and have the same objectives. At the moment, there is conflict, which isn't helping. The Cardiff-Swansea thing is playing on the players' minds. There is instability for their future. There's a need for things to be resolved, hopefully in the short term."

Is he optimistic? "I'm always hopeful. It's a matter of everyone getting together and working out their differences. People will have to make compromises. We aren't a strong enough rugby nation to have these conflicts going on and expect to improve. They need to be fixed up. As players and coaches, we need to insulate ourselves from those things as best we can."

There had been suggestions that Henry had issued an ultimatum to the Welsh Rugby Union, to whom he is contracted until after the 2003 World Cup. "I have been trying, in a reasonably subtle way, to work with the decision-makers. I am making my ideas very clear," he said.

"The instability is a real problem. The lack of competitive football below international level is a real problem. I have been involved in this sort of thing before, but when you get challenges like this, it brings the best out of people."

☐ France were forced to make one change yesterday to the team to meet Wales. Olivier Magne, the Brive openside flanker, who has not missed a game through injury since his international debut in 1997, has had to withdraw because of a foot complaint. He is replaced by Marc Raynaud, of Narbonne, starting his first game for France.

SNOOKER

Threat on life leaves Wattana reeling

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

JAMES WATTANA, a national sporting hero here, bowed out of the Thailand Masters at the Ambassador Hotel last night after receiving an anonymous death threat only two hours before he met Ken Doherty in the last 16 of the world-ranking tournament.

Wattana, who captured the title in 1994 and 1995, was told, via his mobile telephone, to lose the match or "be prepared to die". It is believed the call, traced to a nearby public kiosk, was made by a member of an illegal betting syndicate.

Having held Doherty to 2-2, Wattana was beaten 5-2, but at no stage did he provide any indication that he was not giving of his best. Doherty, who advances to meet John Parrott, was unaware of the problem.

Wattana's mother, Ploy-rung, advised her son to withdraw and was seen in tears. Seven years ago, on the day that Wattana produced a 147 maximum break against Tony Drago at the British Open, he was informed that his father had been shot dead by an assassin in Bangkok.

Even in such disturbing circumstances, Wattana, in poor form of late, managed to retain his sense of humour. "It was a good thing the guy asked me to lose. I don't know what I'd have done if he had said I'd got to win. That would have been difficult," he said.

Steve Davis, who produced arguably his worst performance as a professional at the recent Scottish Open, demonstrated a radical improvement to accompany Doherty into the quarter-finals.

Davis, 41, swiftly and fluently defeated Peter Ebdon 5-1 and now meets Darren Morgan. In a high-quality display, the six-time world champion compiled breaks of 98, 91 and a 136 total clearance, the highest of the tournament so far.

"I hit rock bottom a while ago and sometimes when you think there's no way you can go any lower, it gives you a better perspective," Davis, startlingly ineffective during a 5-1 defeat by Darren Clarke in the first round of the Scottish Open, said.

SWIMMING

Champion denied in dispute over rules

FROM CRAIG LORD IN IMPERIA, ITALY

THE World Cup came to an acrimonious end here last night when officials were lambasted for refusing to declare a men's medley champion and pay $17,500 (£10,600) in prize-money on the grounds that neither Christian Keller, the German in the lead, nor any of those below him had competed at events on three continents.

Keller was denied the $10,000 (£6,000) first prize after falling foul, along with 50 or so others, of a year-old rule that requires swimmers to race at least once in two zones away from their home continent during the 12-event series. The men's medley money will be held over for the next World Cup.

David Sparkes, the chief executive of British swimming and a member of the World Cup committee, said that the decision had been made because "it would be unfair to all the federations and swimmers who have spent money travelling to waive the rule at this late stage". Keller said: "I'm really upset. In the medley, not one swimmer has been to three continents, so I am the fair winner."

The three-continent rule and an increase to an exhaustive 12 rounds of the cup meant also that four other runner-up cash prizes were not awarded, in men's sprint freestyle and butterfly and women's distance freestyle and breaststroke, saving Fina, the international body, and its federations even more money from the $230,000 (£140,000) available for prizes. As a solution, the rule was relaxed yesterday to two continents for the competition next year.

Although there were many fine performances last night — the most impressive of which was that of Agnes Kovacs, of Hungary, whose 2min 23.79sec over the 200 metres breaststroke was the fastest in the world this year — the last session of the cup did not change the overall outcome of the World Cup. Great Britain's only success was second place for Susan Rolph in the sprint freestyle series.

RFU lets Yates off lightly

BY DAVID HANDS

KEVIN YATES, the Bath prop, who was suspended for six months last year for biting Simon Fenn's ear during a cup match with London Scottish, received a further suspension yesterday, though far less than he might have feared. Yates was banned by a Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary panel until April 1 for "reckless" use of the boot during the Allied Dunbar Premiership game against Wasps last month.

Yates, capped by England in Argentina in 1997, was cited by Wasps after a facial injury to Paul Volley, their flanker, which required seven stitches. A three-month suspension was a possibility, but, after scrutinising the video evidence during a hearing lasting less than two hours, the RFU panel, chaired by Jonathan Dance, decided that Yates's action in the game on February 7 had been reckless, but not wilful, and that he should serve no more than a month.

Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said Yates's punishment was appropriate. "We wanted it to be confirmed that stamping on heads has no part in our game," he said.

Yet it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the Calcutta Cup match during the intervening period, when Martin Johnson was given a yellow card for stamping on the neck of John Leslie, may have influenced the hearing. Johnson, the England lock, who will play against Ireland tomorrow, claimed the stamp on the Scotland centre was accidental and no action was taken.

Yates will miss league games against Richmond and Saracens and has still to determine how to pay costs due to London Scottish after the prolonged legal debate over the biting incident. London Scottish seek more than £20,000 and the RFU hope to bring the respective parties together next week. They are also due to determine another stamping incident on Tuesday, involving Austin Healey, the Leicester scrum half, during the game with London Irish, whose scrum half, Kevin Putt, was injured.

When France invented the beautiful game





Rugby Commentary

Twenty-four years ago, Wales travelled to Paris to play their second match at the Parc des Princes, the stadium that had taken over from Stade Colombes. The Parc des Princes, with its overhanging stands, was a grimmer and more solemn place than the venerable stadium it had replaced.

Wales had six players enjoying their first taste of international rugby. It was a bold selectorial decision to initiate such raw talent into what had become, and still remains, the most forbidding of all cities in the Five Nations Championships for a Welshman to play. Remarkably, Wales won, for the second time in four years. Such success in Paris has eluded them ever since.

It has not always been like this. Between 1959 and 1969, Wales did not win a game in France, but they had previously dominated a series of matches between the countries. From 1908 until 1927, Wales won all the fixtures, with France achieving their first success the following year. Their first win in Wales — in Swansea — was not achieved until 20 years later. And from 1949 to 1959 they shared the spoils at Stade Colombes.

This retrospective is to draw attention to the fact that French rugby, despite all the acknowledged flair and traditional gifts, had not been noticeably successful. They were very late starters in the matter of winning. During recent decades, however, French eminence has remained steadfast. They have been the mainstay of rugby's reputation in the northern hemisphere for 40 years.

This is noteworthy since it is often held that consistency is not their most obvious characteristic. The change came with Lucien Mias, the famous captain of the late 1950s. The trouble with France teams, he observed, was that they played "like a collection of captains", each player wanting to express his individuality with no sense of unity of purpose.

Mias could be said to be the man most responsible for transforming their game. He persuaded his countrymen — while acknowledging the romantic flavour of French rugby — to recognise also the power of teamwork and the need for physical strength and a firm spirit. This philosophy would be inherited by Jacques Fouroux as captain in the Seventies and coach in the Eighties, but, sadly, without the same romantic vision.

Mias was the leader of the France team in 1958 that, for the first time, beat South Africa in Johannesburg in a two-match series. He was to lead them to the Five Nations Championship outright for the first time in their history the next year. This success provided the springboard for their recent eminence.

They were to achieve the grand slam for the first time in 1968 and, to prove their late flowering as a national team, they have repeated the feat on five occasions since. This season they are attempting a third consecutive grand slam.

For all the pragmatism and physical elements that Mias introduced, these in themselves would never be enough for France. They must retain the romance of the game if they are to attract the hearts of the people. Rugby must never be too straight-laced and formal. There has to be a sense of abandon, a freedom of expression.

It is this quality that causes apprehension among their opponents, particularly those in the Five Nations. No one, as they all admit, plays like the French. When they cut loose and the spirit moves them, there is no stopping their fluid motion, which is why "containment" is probably the word that is most often uttered by any team about to face them.

Wales must have felt like that last season, but it did them no good. That match was as vivid an expression as one would wish to see of the way that rugby is an *affaire de coeur* to the French.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon at Wembley in April, they were at their most beguiling and enticing. They raised the game to that level which is exquisitely and uniquely French. "Panache," we say, liking the sound of the word, but knowing what it means only when we see someone elegantly parading it. The performance will live in the memory, especially that of Thomas Castaignède, a genius unchained at fly half. They scored a half-century of points.

Rugby is dramatic. Rugby is tough and heroic. There can be marvellous matches of pluck and fortitude; matches of tantalising and rippling movement. There are games that inspire us. For all this, rugby has never been thought of as a beautiful game. But on that gloriously balmy afternoon, France declared in the boldest colours that for them — and only for them, I would guess — rugby has the potential to be so.

Rugby is a thing of beauty. It is a memory cherished by most people, but one that Wales would wish to erase.



> 'Castaignède had Wembley in awe, a genius unchained'

Pat Gibson on the batsman formerly known as Prince

Lara facing his greatest test

The carnival is over for Trinidad and Brian Lara and now they are bracing themselves for something completely different. Today, just down the road from the Savannah where the great fête is staged, the Prince of Port of Spain begins the trial that will decide whether he is a fit and proper person to be captain of West Indies.

Lara has been criticised throughout the Caribbean for leading the pay dispute that undermined the recent tour of South Africa even before it started and then presiding over the worst humiliation in the islands' cricket history, a 5-0 drubbing in the Test series followed by a 6-1 defeat in the one-day internationals.

However, the selectors had little alternative other than to retain him as captain, albeit reluctantly. First, it would have been almost inconceivable to reduce him to the ranks in front of his own crowd at the Queen's Park Oval; second, they felt that there was no one else to whom they could turn; and third, he is just about the only decent batsman West Indies have left.

Thus they have, in effect, put him on probation for the first two Tests, here and in Jamaica, against Australia, the side that first proved that West Indies were no longer invincible by winning in the Caribbean in 1994-95.

With his re-appointment came an instruction to improve on his captaincy skills, his relationship with the players and with Clive Lloyd, the team manager, and Malcolm Marshall, the coach. It read more like a charge sheet than a vote of confidence and even Lloyd, who captained the West Indies in 74 of his 110 Tests, calls it mind-boggling.

"There is enough pressure on being captain of the West Indies or any team for that matter without being told something like that," Lloyd said, before going on to spell out the size of the challenge that is facing Lara if he is to keep the job that he coveted so much.

"This is not one person's thing," he said. "It is a West Indian issue. Cricket is the only cohesive unit we have in the Caribbean and the people feel that being captain is a noble position. Somebody once told me that when you are captain of the West Indies, you are the most important man in the West Indies.

"You are more important than the prime ministers of Trinidad or Barbados, they can only make decisions for Trinidad and Barbados. You are making decisions for five million people all around the Caribbean.

"I think Brian is beginning to realise that now and it is entirely up to him how he copes with it. I think he is capable of doing it, but he has to learn that when you lead, you lead by example. You also listen to the people around you."

That message has been reinforced by the appointment of Dr Rudi Webster, who played for Warwickshire as a fast bowler while he was studying medicine at Edinburgh University before becoming one of the first sports psychologists in the world.

"We have always depended on our natural talent, but you need more than that these days," Lloyd said. "Most sports are played from the neck up."

Dr Webster has much to do. Apart from the Lara problem, which has been exacerbated by a cracked wrist that is not expected to stop him playing, West Indies have had to revamp their side in the aftermath of the failure in South Africa. Wallace and Lambert, the opening batsmen, have been dropped, Chanderpaul is injured and Hooper is in Australia, where his new-born son is ill.

In their places, Campbell has been recalled, to open with Ragoonath, a Trinidadian who is set to win his first cap at 31, and two more new batsmen, Roberts, 24, and Joseph, 29, join the more seasoned Adams, Simmons and Holder in a squad of 15.

At least Ambrose and Walsh have cranked up their ageing bones to spearhead the familiar pace attack that will include any two from four more fast bowlers, Dillon, King, Collins and Collymore, the newcomers from Barbados. There is no spinner.

Australia would almost certainly include both their leg spinners, Warne and MacGill, on a pitch that was damp yesterday and is expected to help all kinds of bowling.

Lloyd said: "I think we have to brace ourselves. What we have are raw recruits and we are throwing them to the lions. Still, you never know."

DAVID GRAY



Lara, who is battling to hold on to the West Indies captaincy, faces the press yesterday

TEAMS

WEST INDIES (from): B C Lara (captain), S L Campbell, S Ragoonath, J C Adams, R I C Holder, D R E Joseph, L A Roberts, P V Simmons, R D Jacobs, C E L Ambrose, R D King, C A Walsh, P T Collins, C Collymore, M Dillon.

AUSTRALIA (probable): M J Slater, M T G Elliott, J L Langer, M E Waugh, S R Waugh (captain), G S Blewett, I A Healy, S K Warne, S C G MacGill, J N Gillespie, G D McGrath.

Umpires: P Willey (England) and E A Nicholls. Third umpire: C Cumberbatch. Match referee: R Subba Row.

Maddy compiles a timely reminder

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN CAPE TOWN

NEWLANDS (first day of five; England A won toss): England A have scored 259 for three wickets against the UCBSA President's XI

JUST OVER a year has passed since Darren Maddy swept all before him during the England A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka. Since then, however, his failures have far outnumbered his successes.

A moderate season for Leicestershire, including a single, disheartening one-day international appearance, saw him move ever further from England circles, the culmination of which was his omission, as expected, earlier this week from the final World Cup squad.

It was with some emotion, therefore, that Maddy reached a century of considerable personal importance yesterday on the opening day of England A's concluding tour match against the President's XI at Newlands.

Ironically, his partner for much of a chanceless innings of 122 not out was Andrew Flintoff, who has hardly been able to wipe the grin from his face since hearing of his retention in the World Cup squad of 15.

Together, they have added 141 runs for the fourth wicket so far, Flintoff's contribution being an unbeaten 70, against the best bowling attack of the tour.

For the tenth time out of 11, Michael Vaughan called correctly at the toss, but was unable to capitalise himself when, attempting to pull his bat out of the way, a ball from Greg Smith bounced steeply and flicked his left glove. Mal Loye also fell to an error of judgment when he was trapped leg-before padding up to Justin Kemp.

For a while, Matthew Windows consolidated with Maddy, reaching 33 unflustered runs. Then came a moment of confusion that could have cut short Maddy's innings. Having run the ball down to fine leg, he turned for a second only for Windows to attempt to send him back — but Maddy was committed to the run, even though Windows had barely left his crease, and ran past his partner, ensuring he was not the one to be run out. Maddy, on 58 at the time, duly completed his century in 5¼ hours with his eleventh boundary.

Flintoff continued in his rich vein of form to the close, taking 94 balls to reach his fifth half-century of the tour.

☐ Pat Symcox, the off spinner, has announced his retirement from international cricket despite being named in the provisional South Africa squad of 19 for the World Cup only last week.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND A: First Innings

D L Maddy not out	122
*M P Vaughan c Masikazana b Smith	4
M B Loye lbw b Kemp	17
M G N Windows run out	33
A Flintoff not out	70
Extras (lb 12, nb 1)	13
Total (3 wkts)	259

V S Solanki, G P Swann, † C M W Read, S D Thomas, D A Cosker and S J Harmison to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-45, 3-117.

BOWLING: Smith 20-7-31-1, Townsend 23-4-83-0; Kemp 16-3-41-1; Abrahams 13-2-33-0; Crookes 20-5-59-0.

PRESIDENT'S XI: M L Bruyns, C C Bradfield, H H Dippenaar, M van Jaarsveld, F C Brooker, *D N Crookes, J M Kemp, S Abrahams, † L Masikazana, D H Townsend, G J Smith

Umpires: D F Becker and R Brooks



Maddy: chanceless century

Botham denies coaching job

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IAN BOTHAM was nonplussed yesterday by reports that he had signed a two-year contract to coach Sri Lanka's pace bowling attack as they prepare to defend their World Cup crown this summer.

Naynesh Desai, Botham's solicitor, insisted that the former England all-rounder had not spoken to the Sri Lankans about a coaching position since an initial conversation at the Test match between England and Sri Lanka at the Oval last August.

"This is absolutely not true," Desai said of claims from Thilanga Sumathipala, the president of the Sri Lanka cricket board, that a deal was done. "Last year, they approached Ian to ask whether he would be interested. He said then that he would be interested and the idea was that they would come back. Today he told me he has not spoken to them since."

Sri Lanka have named Kumara Dharmasena in their 19-man preliminary World Cup squad. Sri Lankan officials said that the off spinner would have to be cleared by the International Cricket Council, which has told the Sri Lankan board that he runs the risk of being called for throwing if he does not correct his action.

Imran Nazir, 18, scored 64 for Pakistan on the first day of the Asian Test championship match against Sri Lanka in Lahore. Nazir shared a second-wicket stand of 105 with Wajahatullah Wasti, who was on 80 when bad light forced a halt with Pakistan 192 for three.

SCOREBOARD FROM LAHORE

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Saeed Anwar b Wickremasinghe	0
Wajahatullah Wasti not out	80
Imran Nazir c De Silva b Wickremasinghe	64
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Wickremasinghe	0
Yousuf Youhana not out	40
Extras (b 2, lb 3, nb 3)	8
Total (3 wkts)	192

Shahid Afridi, † Moin Khan, *Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Nazir and Fazl-e-Akbar to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-105, 3-105.

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe 19-7-61-3; De Silva 11-0-66-0; Hathurusinghe 10-3-21-0; Bandarathilake 18-7-25-0; Kalpage 7-1-14-0.

SRI LANKA: R P Arnold, M S Atapattu, D P M D Jayawardene, A Gunawardene, *H P Tillekeratne, † R S Kaluwitharana, R S Kalpage, K S C de Silva, U C Hathurusinghe, M R C N Bandarathilake, G P Wickremasinghe.

Umpires: R E Koertzen (South Africa) and D R Shepherd (England).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

PISOLITHS
(c) Spherical rock particles of 5-6mm diameter. They are formed by the gradual accretion of material round a nucleus.

STERADIAN
(b) The unit of solid angle, being the solid angle subtended at the centre of a sphere of unit radius by a cap of unit area on the spherical surface. The whole sphere subtends an angle of 4xpi steradians at the centre of the sphere.

CISEAUX PAS
(a) The scissors step. A jumping step in which the legs open wide either to the side or to the front and back, starting and ending in the fifth position.

COUVADE
(c) A ritual custom, once common throughout the world. By couvade, after the birth of a child, the father takes to bed for ten to twelve days.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Qb2! and if 1 ... Rxb2 2 Rf8 checkmate. Black had nothing better than 1 ... Nxg3+ 2 hxg3 Qh6+ 3 Qh2 but White won easily with his extra piece.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A fruitless endeavour

Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan
Channel 4, 8pm

It's all the fruit you can eat tonight, or rather, all the fruit you could eat if only the staff of this Cornish enclave could get things right. From apples to dates, pineapples to melons, it seems that a combination of climate and growing positions conspires to frustrate their endeavours. It says much for the director, Michael Hutchington, that even this third of a follow-up series to the original story of the gardens' restoration after decades of neglect can engage and fascinate. The shared sense of achievement when the first pine- apple is tasted is only enhanced when it is calculated that each fruit has cost £800 in labour and materials to produce. The arguments over where to relocate the Canary Island Date Palm echo the "lively discussions" of previous shows, with opinions dividing along lines now familiar to regular viewers.

Murder Most Horrid
BBC2, 9pm

Jon Canter's script is so outrageously over the top and surreal that it takes this uneven series into a whole new dimension. Dawn French plays a rural WPC, keen on amateur dramatics, persuaded to impersonate an American madame (Whoopi Stone) in an attempted drugs sting against three mobsters who have moved to London. She throws herself most vigorously into the role, but is forced to shoot one of the gangsters when her cover appears to be blown. She is then persuaded that she must stay in costume and accept a prison sentence for murder when the drugs bust results in arrests (herself included).

Frasier
Channel 4, 10pm

If this were *Friends*, it would be subtitled *The One in Which Frasier Gets His Job Back* rather than *Roz Alone*. The main plotline is that Roz learns that the radio station's new programming of Latino music is not a success and that the sacked staffers, including Frasier Crane, will be re-employed. She solicits a loan from the ever-solicitous Frasier, who is then righteously indignant when he believes she is frittering away the money he can, in fact, ill afford to lend her. Finally, he cannot avoid confronting her with his misgivings. She angrily writes him a cheque for the amount of the loan, but of course then needs to borrow the sum again to cover the cheque. **Tony Patrick**

Dawn French stars as an undercover WPC in *Murder Most Horrid* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

World Indoor Athletics Championships
BBC2, 2.45pm (except Scotland)

Helen Rollason introduces action from the first day of the seventh World Indoor Athletics Championships which take place in Maebashi, Japan. Colin Jackson will be hoping for gold in the 60m hurdles after having to settle for silver on three previous occasions in these championships. Jackson's form this season has been encouraging, but he will face stiff opposition in the shape of Cuba's Anier Garcia, the 1997 champion. Today's other medal placings will be determined in the women's 60m hurdles, men's triple jump and the women's pole vault where British hopes rest with Janine Whitlock. Steve Cram, Paul Dickenson and Stuart Storey commentate with Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell. **Louise Godfrey**

RADIO CHOICE

Woman's Hour
Radio 4, 10am

First of two consecutive programmes this morning (see right) that have a level of contemporary resonance that is always welcome but not always apparent in the schedules. Fake guests have put daytime chat shows in the news, so this interview with Oprah Winfrey, the queen of the American talk genre, is of particular interest, even if the actual peg for the interview is (of course) Winfrey's new status as a movie star in *Beloved*. The film is about motherhood, something Winfrey says here she has not "had the energy" to embark upon. As for the alleged sell-out when Winfrey reduced her weight to appear on the cover of *Vogue*, she says: "If Anna Wintour (*Vogue* editor) says you have to be down to 150lbs, that's what you've gotta do."

Beyond Black and White
Radio 4, 1am

The contemporary resonance here is of course an altogether more serious matter and this programme, presented by Yasmin Alibhai Brown, is a serious, sober attempt to get to the wider issues of which the Stephen Lawrence case is merely a tragic symptom. Brown asks if Britain can, or should, sustain the notion of a "racial melting pot" that is implicit in the oft-used phrase "multi-cultural". About half the children in Britain whose background is Afro-Caribbean have at least one white parent and 40 per cent of black men have a white partner. So are all the old groupings — black, white, Asian — outdated or can they, should they, be able to preserve their own identities within the rainbow of society? **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and Grooverider **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Juliet Morris **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Des Lynam **7.00** Morley at the Musicals **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **9.15** Single and Single. By John le Carré (2/8) **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** David Jacobs. Easy Does It **10.30** Sheridan Morley **11.45** The People's Psalms **12.00am** Nicky Horne **4.00** Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra. Presented by Susan Bookbinder **7.30** *Alan Green's Sportsnight*. Brian Moore and studio guests discuss the week's sporting issues, and second-half commentary on Cardiff City v Chester City in Division Three **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00pm** Motoring **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **5.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** Nicky Horne's Access all Areas **10.00** Dave Barrett **1.00am** Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** James Merritt

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** Science in Action **9.00** World News **9.05** The Art of Translating **9.20** John Peel **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Your Questions Of Faith **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Science in Action **2.30** Best on Record **3.00** World News **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** Performance **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Alternative **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.00** World News **7.05** Science in Action **7.30** Your Question Of Faith **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Best on Record **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Alternative **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Science in Action **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Books **2.00** The World Today **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Music to get the day off to a fine start **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Classic Masterpiece **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music **2.00** Concerto. Greig (Piano Concerto in A minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** *Smooth Classics at Seven*. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Beethoven (Symphony No 2), Schumann (Fantasiestucke); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Greig (Piano Concerto in A minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny with arts news and music, including Weber (Clarinet Concertino in E flat); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in G, Op 49 No 2)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. John Adams (Tromba lontana; A Short Ride in a Fast Machine); Schubert (Ave Maria, D839; Die Forelle); Schubert (Piano Sonata in C, D812, Grand Duo); Sibelius (The Maiden's Tryst, Op 37 No 5; Aus banger Brust, Op 50 No 4; Slowly as the Evening Sun, Op 61 No 1); Bruch (Concerto in E minor for clarinet and viola)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Bernard Haitink
11.00 Sound Stories: Family Affairs Peggy Reynolds talks about the Lloyd Webber musical dynasty
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (Sounding the Century) Gould Trio. Faure (Piano Trio in D minor, Op 120); Ravel (Piano Trio in A minor)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska, Jennifer Koh, violin. Sibelius (The Oceanides); Beethoven (Symphony No 6 in F, Pastoral); Berg (Violin Concerto); Sibelius (Symphony No 5)
4.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces various treatments of an old Portuguese dance (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty talks to the conductor and composer André Previn as celebrations at the Barbican begin in honour of his seventieth birthday
7.30 Performance on 3 A concert given last month in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. BBC Philharmonic, Lars Vogt, piano, under Peter Maxwell Davies: Maxwell Davies (A Reel for Seven Fishermen, first UK performance); under Vassily Sinaisky: Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 4 in G); Shostakovich (Symphony No 6)
9.10 Postscript: Cultural Nationalism (5/5)
9.35 Brahms (Violin Sonata in D minor, Op 108). Joseph Szigeti, violin, Egon Petri, piano
10.00 *Hear and Now* BBC Singers under Stefan Parkman, BBC Symphony Orchestra under Diego Masson. Bussotti (Il Catalogo e Questo III); Henze (Orpheus Behind the Wire; La Selva Incantata)
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell Davies presents a 52 part history of jazz (r)
12.00am Composer of the Week: Copland (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. Includes **1.00** Francoise Pollet, soprano, Italian RSO under Eliahu Inbal. Chausson (Poeme de l'amour et de la mer); Strauss (Symphonia domestica) **2.15** Debussy (Estampes) **2.35** Poulenc (Sept chansons) **2.50** Albeniz, orch Arbos (Iberia) **3.20** Beethoven (Violin Sonata in E flat, Op 12 No 3) **3.40** C.P.E. Bach (Quartet in D, Wq94) **4.00** Handel (Alcina, excerpts) **4.20** Chopin (Scherzo No 4) **4.35** Tibor Sarai (Symphony No 2) **5.00** Biber (Sonata No 12 in C) **5.15** Madetoja (Symphonic Suite) **5.40** Durante (Concerto for Strings No 6 in A)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Ashley Gething presents
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political news
9.00 Desert Island Discs The comedy scriptwriter Richard Curtis joins Sue Lawley (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Zarafa Final parts (r)
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray. See Choice
11.00 Beyond Black and White Yasmin Alibhai asks if Britain's record for the largest number of interracial relationships makes it a model for other countries. See Choice
11.30 Sunny Side Up The Glee Boys consider Rita Reeves' offer to organise a tour (4/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 *You and Yours* Consumer issues and public service reports, presented by Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 *Afternoon Play: Dry Sherry* Dark comedy, by Elizabeth Baines. The funeral of a woman's former mother-in-law goes well until an uninvited guest arrives. With Deborah McAndrew and Gillian Cally
3.00 Changing Places Howard Stableford reports from Britain's first wood-burning power station in the Scottish Borders
3.30 First Nights A childless couple's attempts to adopt a baby girl from China
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 45 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massey (r)
4.00 Writers' Masterclass Sebastian Faulks and Philippa Gregory discuss the integration of history into fiction. *Last in series* (3/3) (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss media trends
5.00 PM with Clare English and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Sunday Format John Morton's comedy about the stories generated by a fictional weekend newspaper. Starring Rebecca Front, Simon Greenall and Tony Gardner (3/4)
7.00 The Archers Hayley takes on Helen
7.15 Front Row Live arts programme
7.45 *The Cry of the Bittern* Environmental drama, by Tim Jackson. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Any Questions? Audience members from Narberth in Pembrokeshire address panellists including Ron Davies, MP
8.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
9.00 The Friday Play: Waiting by Steve May. A concerned mother awaits the late arrival of her 14-year-old daughter, who has stayed out past her nine o'clock curfew. With Lindsey Coulson and Kelly Wright
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Ernest Hemingway Centenary* **— The Sun Also Rises** Hemingway's fictional orator Jake Burns speaks out for a generation struggling to cope in the wake of the First World War (r)
11.00 (FM only from 11.30) Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Special edition of the sporting magazine, with Eleanor Oldroyd and guests in Dublin ahead of the Five Nations Rugby match between Ireland and England
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Five Stories by Anton Chekhov Alistair McGowan reads *Bad Weather*, Chekhov's tale of marital mistrust
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Leaked revelations a blow to Channel 4 scoop

When you get your 15 minutes of fame make sure you've got a good agent. Having paid £400,000 for Monica Lewinski's first UK television interview, Channel 4 was not going to be backward in hyping forward. Preview tapes were withheld until yesterday morning, prompting cries of "Hold the television pages!" to echo around Wapping.

But given that yesterday's papers were full of accounts of her American interview with Barbara Walters, and that Channel 4 were sending out press releases containing the juicier quotes from Jon Snow's, this may seem a little disingenuous. It won't do the book sales any harm, though.

Following Walters didn't make Jon Snow's job any easier. The more dramatic or lurid "revelations", such as Lewinski's claim to have contemplated jumping from the tenth-storey office where 11 FBI men were grilling her, were already in the public domain from advance publicity on Morton's book. We all guessed that she no longer values Linda Tripp's friendship, and has mixed feelings about Clinton himself.

Nor did it help that Lewinski is polishing her act as she goes along. She told Walters, ludicrously, that lifting her skirt to show Clinton her thong knickers was a "small, subtle, flirtatious gesture". But for Snow this had been edited down to "a very small gesture". Not where I come from, it isn't.

In fact Snow's approach, which worked well, was to do the thinking for her. All the telling phrases came from him. Lewinski herself talks in that teeth-sucking Californian emote-speak. She is "in touch with her sexuality", for instance, "and it needs to be honoured and cherished". Her family are to be "honoured" and "valued" and everyone she met seems to have "violated" her in some way or other.

Snow offered her a long string of telling propositions about her reactions and feelings, many of which seemed to set her thinking in ways she had not anticipated. She began with an extraordinary puppyish charm: wide-eyed, beaming, almost gushing and giggling like a schoolgirl — 25 going on 15.





Paul Hoggart

But Snow pushed her firmly but tactfully into the darker zones, and a picture began to emerge of an admittedly self-deluding and less than completely moral innocent, sucked into a nightmare of cynicism, deceit and ruthless manipulation. The bubbles subsided and a troubled, saddened air descended, tinged with the fear that her immunity from prosecution could still be lifted by a false move, with the gates of the penitentiary beckoning.

The fact that Kenneth Starr's team have gagged her from discussing the way they "handled" her surely torpedoes their claim to be disinterested seekers after truth. You do not have to like or admire Clinton to see that Lewinski was a human dum-dum bullet, fired in a failed coup d'état.

She seemed an articulate, guileless, warm-hearted woman, but this is a world of mirrors, most of them two-way, and hidden agendas, so who can really tell? If only the President had heeded Rudyard Kipling's observation that "a woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke". That's right, Bill, a smoke.

Football's Foreign Legion (Channel 5) was an example of a rare and precarious beast, a half-way decent Channel 5 documentary. Half-way only because, like Dickens's *The Pickwick Papers*, the programme was something of a "loose and baggy monster".

There was an inconclusive discussion about whether the flood of foreign cuckoos was killing our native chicks, or whether they were teaching by example. A further inconclusive debate looked at the globalisation of the sport, suggesting that a multinational mogul such as, to pick an example at random, Rupert Murdoch, might plant a Japanese player on Manchester United in order to open up Japanese markets to his media products.

But most of the footage consisted of profiles of genial foreign footballers such as Eyal Berkovic of Israel and West Ham, who has found happiness at Solly's kosher restaurant, Golders Green, even though his team-mates are often unintelligible as "zay spik Cocknik!"

In fact the greatest effect of the foreign invasion may be on the fans. They have been introduced to smoother, classier, cleverer ways of playing "the beautiful game" as it is known to initiates. Or "the game of running about a lot in the mud" as it is known to the rest of us.

Not that that makes much difference to the Glasgow fans. They are determined that the new foreign players, including the six Roman Catholics playing for traditionally Protestant Rangers, are fully aware of the treasured heritage of Rangers-Celtic sectarian hatred, we were told.

But foreign players, unlike Liverpool's Robbie Fowler, are not ashamed to be thoughtful. Chelsea's French international Frank Leboeuf, for instance, is no mad cow, whatever his name may imply. "We've got only one life and I want to be involving many cultures and it was very important to come abroad and see how English people lives," he ruminated appreciatively. I wonder if Gazza ever said that in Italian.

Would the ranting xenophobic fan who taunted Eric Cantona have realised what a prat he was if the mono-brow philosopher had not drop-kicked him in the solar plexus? Sadly the programme overlooked this point, but "ze pilchard 'oo dances in ze ship's spume, must bewair ze unexpected shag", as Eric might say. Or "He's French; he's flash, and he's seeing [I think that was the word] Leslie Ash, Cantonaaa!" as Manchester United fans once chanted, clearly inspired by his Gallic muse.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (90940)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (43969)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2822327)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (7380389)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3364853)
11.00 Change That (3374230)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3351389)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7239327)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (14308)
12.30 Wipeout (4805785)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53949785)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (46056)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59861360)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35918018)
2.05 Ironside Practical jokers with a sick sense of humour keep the police in suspense (r) (5122563)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (7110358)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6768360) **3.45** Spider (5339259) **3.50** Smart on the Road (9044872) **4.05** Rugrats (6405414) **4.30** L & K Friday (3343292) **4.55** Newsround Extra (5806211) **5.10** Blue Peter (9701476)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (143211)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (259)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (211)
7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Kate Winslet and Grey O'Brien grace the hectic cookery show (r) (T) (5018)
7.30 Top of the Pops Performances by Blur, The Corrs, Cher, Cardigans, Whitney Housten, Britney Spears and Stereophonics (T) (495)
8.00 Ground Force Alan Titchmarsh and the team pitch in to create the ultimate football fan's garden, complete with corner grandstand (4/8) (T) (4766)
8.30 The Builders The council gives the go-ahead to Tony Keating's latest project (T) (6501)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (2389)
9.30 Parkinson With the comedian Lenny Henry and Rolf Harris (T) (836679)



Wartime action with Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton (10.25pm)

10.25 Where Eagles Dare (1969) Commandos set out to rescue an American general captured by the Nazis. Second World War espionage thriller, with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood. Directed by Brian G. Hutton (50331018)
12.55am A Child for Satan (TVM 1991) Chiller, starring Marita Geraghty as a pregnant woman who moves to New Mexico with her husband, only to be unsettled by a warning that evil forces are stirring. Directed by Robert Lieberman, John Schwartzman (T) (4254438)

10.25 Just Up Your Street (332563) **11.00 Facing The King: Dai Smith in Conversation with Barry John** (984360) **11.40 FILM: Where Eagles Dare** (T) (69154230) **2.10am-2.15 News Headlines and Weather** (T) (9924148)

BBC2

7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7740308) **7.05** Teletubbies (6730768) **7.30** Snorks (8695921) **7.50** Short Change (3703292) **8.18** Rewind (3144563) **8.20** Taz-Mania (5391582) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (1349230) **8.50** Pingu (1345414) **9.00** Storytime (7967230) **9.10** See You, See Me (4699105) **9.30** Numbertime (8088211) **9.45** Come Outside (8083766) **10.00** Teletubbies (36939) **10.30** Megamaths (1837650) **10.50** Look & Read (1857414) **11.10** Landmarks (3540124) **11.30** English File (4124) **12.00pm** Scene (82150) **12.30** Working Lunch (47124) **1.00** Johnson & Friends (68268360)
1.10 The House Detectives (r) (41006056)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35922211)
2.10 Awash with Colour (56782360)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3536650)
2.45 CHOICE **World Indoor Athletics Championships** Introduced by Helen Rollason (4913124)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (4063476)
3.30 The Village (r) (9710308)
3.55 Kaye (9728327)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6407872)
4.55 Esther (T) (5482853)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (360)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (171360)
6.20 The Simpsons (r) (T) (182476)
6.45 Robot Wars: The Grand Final (153327)
7.15 Electric Circus (T) (282394)
7.30 Country House Lord and Lady Tavistock appear to have made themselves unpopular (T) (227)
8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Dr Phil Hammond meets researchers looking to boost the British man's dwindling sperm production (T) (2308)
8.30 Gardeners' World Stephen Lacey meets an octogenarian gardener in Santa Barbara (3/30) (T) (4143)
9.00 CHOICE ***Murder Most Horrid*** Dawn French stars as a bored village WPC who swaps rural life for an undercover mission (T) (3259)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With Meat Loaf and Billie (T) (27360)
10.00 The Young Ones (r) (T) (13679)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (246327)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (392495)
11.20 Births, Marriages and Deaths Graham accidentally discovers Molly's well-kept secret (r) (T) (649785)
12.10am Shoot the Pianist (1960) A timid bar pianist is drawn into a world of crime by his brothers, who are on the run from vicious gangsters. Directed by Francois Truffaut (6916231)

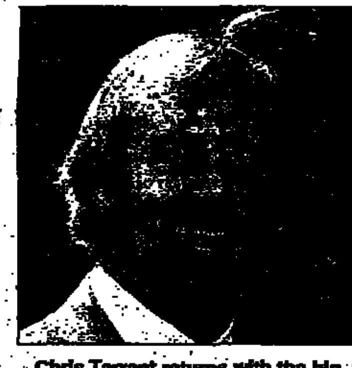


Another chance to see the Brit award winner Natalie Imbruglia live (1.30am)

1.30 Later with Jools Holland With Page and Plant; Gomez; Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds and Natalie Imbruglia (r) (2355051)
2.35 Weather (5669167) **2.40** Close
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision: French 1 (84588) **5.00** Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (36230)
6.00 GMTV (5086785)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8218414)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44830308)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (4311650)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (34650)
12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (53934853)
1.00 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Greece, Naples, the Swiss Alps and the Himalayas (r) (T) (31124)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Nick loses control (31124)
1.30 Home and Away Things are looking up for Chloe and James (T) (33921)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5615476)
2.45 Wheel of Fortune (T) (538969)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (4061018)
3.20 HTV News (T) (4091259)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4074582) **3.35** Timbuctoo (9034495) **3.45** Animal Stories (5315679) **3.55** Giggly Bitz! (4780872) **4.15** Pump It Up (138018) **4.45** Comin' Atcha (3366143)
5.10 A Country Practice Darcy saves Billy's bacon. Last in series (7166853)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (774230)
6.00 Home and Away Things are looking up for Chloe and James (r) (T) (143489)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (630650)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (355495)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (679)
6.55 WALES: A Taste of Things to Come New programmes on HTV (124747)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Game show (7/16) (T) (3414)
7.30 Coronation Street The game's over for Ian (T) (563)
8.00 Days Like These The gang goes to a disco where they nearly change partners, while Bob thinks Ron has a rival for Kitty's affections (4/13) (T) (9834)



Chris Tarrant returns with the big money game show (8.30pm)

8.30 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? New series. Chris Tarrant hosts the ultimate big-prize game show (T) (8969)
9.00 Britain's Worst Roads The state of the nation's highways and byways (T) (5969)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (32655)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (137360)
10.40 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview A look ahead to the forthcoming Formula One season (T) (106259)
11.10 Pink Cadillac (1989) Comedy adventure, starring Clint Eastwood as a bounty hunter searching for a woman who stole $250,000 from a vicious gang of neo-Nazis (T) (22556679)
1.30am F1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Action and news from the qualifying session for tomorrow night's Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park in Melbourne (T) (618254)
3.20 The Haunted Fishtank (12543322)
3.50 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9586148)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (43221525)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (33964)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (7566018) **1.00 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (31124) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (6030327) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (539698) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (4091259) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (7166853) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (960327) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (137360) **10.40 Late Tackle** (1/8) (6791259) **12.00am Murray and Martin's F1 Preview** (T) (62235) **12.30-1.30 Anatomy of Disaster** (96902) **3.20 Box Office America** (12552070) **3.45 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (36657065) **4.10 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6228693) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (3606902)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4311650) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (7574037) **1.00 Westcountry Update** (31124) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (6030327) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (539698) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4091259) **5.08 Birthday People** (9814560) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7166853) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (59969) **10.30-10.45 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (151940) **10.45 The Other Side** (423698) **11.15 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview** (T) (413211) **11.45-1.30 FILM: The Car** (324495)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4311650) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7166853) **6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (59969) **10.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (137360) **10.40 Dream Town** (6/6) (106259) **11.10 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview** (T) (505747) **11.40-1.30 FILM: They Live** (702124) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (33964)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7578853) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7566018) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7166853) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (752259) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (327) **6.30-7.00 Off the Beaten Track** (T) (679) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (272124) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (137360)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88191360) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67151389) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Off Limits (99431582) **9.25 Schools at Work** (29072414) **9.30 Eureka** (74332785) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (74320940) **10.00 The Complete Cosmos** (14377211) **10.10 TVM** (91176476) **10.25 Iaith ar Daith** (91188211) **10.45 Enter the Maths Zone** (96478495) **11.00 The Technology Programme** (15248056) **11.15 Pa Newydd?** (15238679) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68503969) **12.00pm Home Improvement** (T) (97382037) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26100582) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67154476) **1.30 FILM: The Wings of Eagles** (T) (62532495) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67470360) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67489495) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (67495679) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90470105) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67419259) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93728292) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86218495) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90490969) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67496308) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (T) (90476389) **8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (90488124) **9.00 Pawb a'i Farn** (37630230) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72945582) **10.35 Frasier** (T) (35040785) **11.05 So Graham Norton** (T) (83044969) **11.45 TFI Friday** (35408211) **12.50am 4 Later;** The RuPaul Show (85656877) **1.20 Late Toon: Watching TV** (52963457) **1.30 The Mod Squad** (75045877) **2.30 Vids** (r) (43349780) **3.00 FILM: Fame is the Spur** (24284051) **4.55 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.50am The Magic Roundabout (1040360)
5.55 Sesame Street (4543582)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (36679)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits (6322835) **9.25** Schools at Work (8136124) **9.30** Eureka (8080679) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8078834) **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (5399650) **10.10** TVM (9276124) **10.25** 1798 and After (9295259) **10.45** Enter the Maths Zone (9518563) **11.00** The Technology Programme (3482292) **11.15** Stage One (3405143)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9292)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (82178)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (32292)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (39766)
1.30 Travelog Treks North Korea (59878650)
1.45 The Real Glory (1939) Soldiers of fortune help quell a terrorist uprising in the Philippines in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War. Gary Cooper and David Niven star. Directed by Henry Hathaway (T) (41220834)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (785)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (292)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3369230)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5477921)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (376)



The chat show supremo Jerry Springer joins Chris Evans (6pm)

6.00 TFI Friday Jerry Springer and bands. Hurricaine £1, The Beautiful South and Des'ree join Chris Evans (40211)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (344650)
7.55 The 1999 Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize The inventive pictures of Alex Hartley (T) (275230)
8.00 CHOICE **Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan** Resident fruit expert Paul Hayward looks for advice on how to improve his peach yield (T) (7476)
8.30 Brookside A police raid shatters Ron's plans (T) (9211)
9.00 Friends Monica applies to become the chef in a fancy restaurant. Jon Lovitz guest stars (r) (T) (8327)
9.30 Boyz Unlimited The group go head-to-head with Boys Ltd and the day of the wedding arrives (5/6) (T) (52056)
10.00 CHOICE **Frasier** Roz borrows money from Frasier (T) (32637)
10.30 So Graham Norton Comedy (856853)
11.10 King of the Hill Bill wears a dress in memory of Lenore (T) (503389)
11.40 TFI Friday Shown earlier (r) (810921)
12.45am 4 Later; The RuPaul Show (37167)
1.15 Late Toon: Watching TV (8242612)
1.25 The Mod Squad Greer's life is jeopardised by an unknown terrorist (3380983)
2.25 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (4163588)
2.55 Fame is the Spur (1947) Drama following the rise to eminence of a working-class socialist. Starring Michael Redgrave. Roy Boulting directs (485983)
4.50 Wanting and Getting A photographer takes a poignant picture of his home town before he leaves (46856235)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (8852330)
7.00 WideWorld Part 11. Issues of race and religion in schools (r) (T) (8250143)
7.30 Milkshake! (2782969)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4761698)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2977921)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2976292)
9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (9414619)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4536940)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9718829)
10.20 Sunset Beach Ben occupies Maria's thoughts (T) (3723582)
11.10 Leeza (5418691)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2987308)
12.30 Family Affairs Yasmin's behaviour changes (r) (T) (1358230)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (8259414)
1.30 The Roseanne Show The outrageous comedian is joined by the author and supermodel Dayle Haddon (1357501)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9236230)
2.30 Good Afternoon (1841018)
3.30 Wedding Day Blues (TVM 1988) A dream wedding is turned into a nightmare by feuding family and friends. Comedy, starring Cloris Leachman and John Ratzenberger. Directed by Paul Lynch (4083969)
5.10 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (8585747)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (2570211)
6.30 Family Affairs Gabby learns of Clive's short-lived affair (T) (2561563)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (9214018)
7.30 Champions of Nature Wildlife documentary focusing on a whale conservation project in Nova Scotia (T); 5 News Update (2567747)
8.00 Was It Good for You? Two couples head for East Africa (8/14) (9223766)
8.30 Nick's Quest Giant river otters in Guyana (4/8) (T) (9235501)
9.00 Childhood Sweethearts? (1995) A woman missing for almost 20 years returns to her home town where she attempts to bring to justice those she claims had been abusing and keeping her prisoner — but will anyone believe her story? Drama, starring Melissa Gilbert, Barbara Babcock and Ronny Cox. Directed by Marcus Cole (T); 5 News Update (81335785)
10.50 Poltergeist: The Legacy A man is brought back from the dead after 150 years — only to discover the world he knew is long gone (r) (T) (4181037)
11.45 Before the Night (TVM 1994) An independent woman thinks she's finally found the man of her dreams — but events soon lead her to suspect he's not quite all he seems. Starring Ally Sheedy. Directed by Talia Shire (6284292)
1.40am WB Blue and the Bean (TVM 1988) Three bail bondsmen get caught up in a drugs war while investigating the case of a kidnapped heiress. With David Hasselhoff. Directed by Max Kleven (77257525)
3.10 Slapstick, Too (1992) Eli Wallach narrates a compilation of classic stunts from the golden age of Hollywood comedy (58087457)
4.35 Russell Grant's Postcards From the River Wye (38055896)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7261070)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8942877)

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes
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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (63747) **7.30** Simpsons (75582) **8.00** Simpsons (46921) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (45292) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (62679) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (71766) **11.00** Guilty! (84230) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (83327) **1.00** Mad About You (62018) **1.30** Jeopardy (73563) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (59056) **3.00** Jenny Jones (82747) **4.00** Guilty! (94582) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (3679) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (6281) **6.30** Friends (1563) **7.00** Simpsons (4308) **7.30** Simpsons (7747) **8.00** Beat the Crusher (12476) **9.00** Inside the X Files (25940) **10.00** Cops (57037) **10.30** Cops (68785) **11.00** Friends (95211) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (34018) **12.30am** The Commish (27896) **1.30** Long Play (6853885)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **The Edge (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **As Good as It Gets (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Good Will Hunting (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 56) **Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Short Attention Span Cinema (4325834) **8.00 Bob Roberts (1992)** (87468308) **9.45** Rooftop (8573768) **10.00 Al Butterfly (1993)** (9144650) **11.45** The Oath (5521968) **12.00am Shivers (1974)** (7337148) **1.30 Damage (1992)** (6143631) **3.20 Lilith (1964)** (18257693) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Clara's Heart (1988) (11143) **8.00 Keeping the Promise (1997)** (31650) **10.00 Space Jam (1996)** (76650) **12.00pm Old Yeller (1957)** (54501) **2.00 Clara's Heart (1988)** (17921) **4.00 Keeping the Promise (1997)** (9853) **6.00 Space Jam (1996)** (37785) **8.00 The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997)** (90370018) **10.10 Conspiracy Theory (1997)** (89631056) **12.25am Never Talk to Strangers (1995)** (8302148) **1.55 Michael Collins (1996)** (84641254) **4.05 Vampires in Venice (1988)** (470065)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.30am Laura Lansing Slept Here (TVM 1988) (80309292) **7.10 Guinevere (1993)** (73168785) **9.00 That's Right, You're Wrong (1939)** (36327) **10.30 Mr Holland's Opus (1995)** (325940) **1.00pm Guinevere (1993)** (24360) **3.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother (1975)** (31921) **4.30 Mr Holland's Opus (1995)** (783292) **7.00** P-Review (9476) **7.30** UK Top 10 (5143) **8.00** Action Heroes (8124) **8.30** Movie Magic (7259) **9.00 Beverly Hills Ninja (1997)** (86563) **10.30 High School High (1996)** (4408143) **11.55 The Truth About Cats and Dogs (1995)** (232940) **1.35am Erik the Viking (1989)** (977544) **3.10 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother (1975)** (402542) **4.45 Godzilla vs Gigan (1972)** (51863815)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Road to Zanzibar (1941) (7350211) **6.00 Dragnet (1954)** (2753360) **8.00 Wild River (1960)** (2765105) **10.00 The Milagro Beanfield War (1988)** (4612308) **12.00am The Kremlin Letter (1970)** (37283964) **2.05 The Legend of Hell House (1973)** (1215457) **3.40 The White Tower (1950)** (20012781)

TNT

9.00pm WCW Nitro (23609019) **11.35** WCW Thunder (75121898) **1.30am Night Digger (1971)** (23748693) **3.15 Savage Messiah (1972)** (13165898) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Futures in Sport **7.00** Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Spanish Football **11.00** Football League Review **11.30** Futbol Mundial **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** What A Weekend **1.00** Live Golf **5.00** Futbol Mundial **5.30** What A Weekend **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** Live Super League **9.30** World Sport Special **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Hold the Back Page **12.00am** Sports Centre **1.00** Wrestling **3.00** Super League **4.00** Hold the Back Page **5.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** What A Weekend **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV: Tight Lines **10.00** The Rugby Club **11.00** US Golf **1.00pm** Football League Review [illegible]

SKY SPORTS 3

[illegible] Fittest **4.30** Max Power **5.30** Moto-Plus **6.00** Cycling **6.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour **7.00** Golf **9.00** Moto-Plus **9.30** Extreme Sailing **10.00** World Wrestling Federation: Raw **12.00am** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Live Athletics **11.00** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **12.00pm** Alpine Skiing **1.00** Live Snowboarding **2.00** Live Women's Biathlon **3.15** Women's Alpine Skiing **4.00** Live Cross-Country Skiing **5.30** Women's Biathlon **6.30** Women's Alpine Skiing **7.30** Figure Skating **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Athletics **11.00** Extreme Sports **12.00am** Snowboarding **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** The Thin Blue Line **9.40** Harry Enfield and Chums **10.20** Ruby Wax Meets Helen Mirren and Julianna Margulies **11.00** The Bill **12.00am** Doctor Who: Space Museum **1.45** Blake's Seven **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** Doctor at Large **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** The Bran Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



Jeremy Irons and Juliette Binoche star in Louis Malle's erotically charged romantic drama *Damage* (FilmFour, 1.30am)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **6.00** London [illegible] **10.00** That's [illegible] Hill Street Blues [illegible] Gridlock **1.00** [illegible] Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** [illegible] Aladdin **7.30** [illegible] Troop **8.25** [illegible] Adventures of [illegible] Adventures of [illegible] Pocket Dragon [illegible] House **8.55** [illegible] Bite Size **10.00** [illegible] Big Garage [illegible] Sesame Street [illegible] Spot **12.05** [illegible] Dragons **12.30** [illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

[illegible] New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** Fox Kids X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: The Happy Hooker Goes to Washington (1977)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Bloody Birthday (1980)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00 FILM:** Life of Python **11.15** Lancelot Link **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: The Raven **9.30** The Hunger **10.00 FILM: Witchboard (1987)** **12.00am FILM:** Aldra (1988) **2.30** 100 Years of Horror **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Global Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Dicemen **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Time Travellers **5.30** Terra X **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Outback Adventures **8.30** Uncharted Africa **9.00** Shoot to Thrill **10.00** Pinochet and Allende. Anatomy of a Coup **11.00** Weapons of War **12.00am** Birth of a Salesman **1.00** Terra X **1.30** Time Travellers **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** Wild Rescues **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Animal X **9.00** Ocean Wilds **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Lions: Finding Freedom **11.00** Vet School **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Season of the Salmon **7.30** Diving with Seals **8.00** The Shark Files: Great White — In Search of the Giant **9.00** Animal Instinct **10.00** Kruger Park 100 — The Vision Lives On **11.00** Search for the Great Apes **12.00am** Mirrorworld

HISTORY

4.00pm Clash of Wings: The African Tutorial **5.00** Trans-Atlantic Cable: 2,500 Miles of Copper Wire **6.00** Hidden Cities of the Etruscans **7.00** Helicopters

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **10.00** The Cookshop **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** Worral Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Newman Meets **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **2.00** Can't Stand the Heat **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Food Factory **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** New Chefs on the Block **4.30** Tessa Bramley's Country Kitchen **5.00** Close

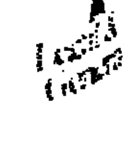
LIVING

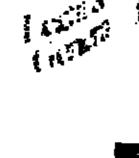
6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 Plus 2 **6.40** Philbert the Frog **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** The Heat Is On **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** The Jerry Springer Show **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: The Woman Who Sinned (1991)** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

6.00am Mrs Madhuri Dixit **5.30** Gudgudia **6.00** Sony Men Lorry **6.30** Masti Must Show **7.00** Faith: Muslim **7.30** News **8.00** Zee World **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Adhikar **10.00** Anhoni **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie** **3.00** Bangla TV: Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** It's My Choice **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Zee Zone **5.30** Amanat **6.00** Artist of the Fortnight **6.30** Zee TV Showcase **7.00** Chashme Baddoor **7.30** Entertainment Express **8.00** News **8.30** Aashirwad **9.30 FILM: Hindi Movie: Khuddar** **12.00am** News **12.30** Ru-Ba-Ru **1.00** X-Zone **2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie: Bees Saal Baad**



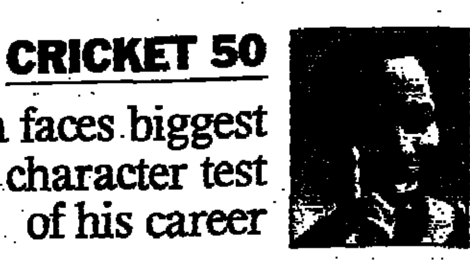


RUGBY LEAGUE 47
Challengers line up to claim crown from the Monie men

SPORT

CRICKET 50
Lara faces biggest character test of his career



Kinnear told to rest after heart scare



Kinnear's long-term future is in doubt after heart attack

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

JOE KINNEAR, the Wimbledon manager, suffered a heart attack before his club's match against Sheffield Wednesday on Wednesday evening. He will not be in charge for the game against Leicester City, also in the FA Carling Premiership, at Selhurst Park tomorrow and is unlikely to be released from the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield until after the weekend.

Kinnear, 52, has been told to rest for at least two weeks and will have to take medication for the foreseeable future. He could miss the rest of the season as he recuperates and his long-term future may also be in doubt. It will not be discussed by Wimbledon officials until he has returned to London and settled at home. After complaining of chest pains before the game at Hillsborough, which Wimbledon went on to win 2-1, Kinnear was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Sam Hammam, Wimbledon's partner-governor, spent the evening with Kinnear and they were later joined by Kinnear's wife, Bonnie. She remained at the hospital yesterday as her husband underwent more tests. Kinnear, one of the longest-serving managers in the Premiership, was said to be "comfortable".

"I'd like to bet he was sitting up, taking a lightly boiled egg and chatting up all the nurses," a close friend said. "Not much will change. I'm sure he'll be back at the helm before too long."

A hospital spokesman was less sure. "I think that's way down the line," he said. "I'm sure that's not even on his own or Mr Hammam's mind at the moment, even though they would have to consider it. I'm sure it's not uppermost in their minds. The main thing is for Mr Kinnear to get himself back to health."

Kenny Cunningham, the Wimbledon captain, had noticed that Kinnear was troubled during the pre-match warm-up. "As we were coming off the pitch, it became obvious that Joe was in some type of discomfort," he said. "We thought it might have been indigestion or something like that. An ambulance then came and took him to hospital. It was a bit of a shock at the time, but, hopefully, the worst is now behind him. It was in our minds during the match and especially afterwards, but I don't think it had any bearing on the game."

Football management has long been regarded as a stressful job, particularly in the Premiership, in which the demand for success — and the financial rewards that go with it — have reached unrealistic levels. Kinnear is an often volatile character, who believes in expressing his emotions in the most demonstrable manner possible. His state of mind cannot have been helped by Wimbledon's double defeat against Tottenham Hotspur, in the FA Cup fourth round and Worthington Cup semi-finals, last month, which produced four matches of intense pressure on and off the pitch.

He responded typically by saying that Wimbledon could still qualify for Europe via a high finish in the Premiership and they lie sixth after the victory at Hillsborough.

Barry Fry, the Peterborough United manager, has survived two heart attacks yet remains his same, voluble self in the Nationwide League third division. Ronnie Moore, of Rotherham United, and Steve Parkin, of Mansfield Town, were wired up with heart monitors during their third-division game at Field Mill in January.

Both managers' heart rates soared during the match, which Rotherham won 3-0. "We're all under the same pressures, " Moore said yesterday. "I was very surprised my readings weren't higher as I'm a real shouter and screamer. People tell me there's so much pressure in the Premiership but you should try it down here. We are all fighting for a living.

"I'd like to see Premier League managers linked up to the heart monitors. Can you imagine what Gordon Strachan would be like?" In Kinnear's absence, Mick Harford and David Kemp, his first-team coaches, will look after the side.

"Joe is in the best possible hands," Efan Ekoku, the Wimbledon striker, said. "We're still pushing for a European place and, hopefully, Joe will be back to spearhead the campaign."

Bradford City have boosted their attempt to gain promotion to the FA Carling Premiership by completing the signing of Dean Windass, the 29-year-old forward, from Oxford United.

He is expected to make his debut for his new club away to Port Vale tomorrow. Bradford will pay Oxford £950,000 plus a further £50,000 if they win promotion this season.

Hill backing Schumacher for world title

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

THE recommendation can come no higher than from the man with the biggest axe to grind, but Damon Hill was willing yesterday to press the claims of Michael Schumacher, his old adversary, as the Formula One motor racing world champion this year.

Hill would seem the least likely to declare his support for the driver who presented the biggest obstacle to his own championship ambitions, particularly on the eve of the first grand prix of the season. It was in Australia that the German prevented Hill from winning his first world title by allowing his Benetton to come into contact with the Englishman's Williams in 1994.

The incident was judged to have been an accident, but Hill is now wise enough to believe that Schumacher's innate cunning probably robbed him of victory and their rivalry has continually spilled into bitterness and recriminations. Since then, Schumacher has twice lost the world title in the last race of the season in his Ferrari, leading Hill to predict that his time has come again.

"If you take the way things went in the last two seasons, I would put my money on Ferrari winning it. I would put my money on Michael winning,"

Bullish Williams.................46

he said. "They have come so close in the last two years, but I think this year Ferrari will start closer to McLaren than they did last season, which will give Michael a good chance to challenge straightaway. I wouldn't put a lot of money on it, but I can see it happening.

"It would be good for the sport if Ferrari won it and it would certainly be good for Ferrari, but if Michael starts this year as he finished last season, then the advantage will be with Ferrari and Michael Schumacher.

"It's a gut feeling. McLaren started here with a 2sec advantage, in effect, last year and Ferrari ended up being on level terms towards the end of the season. That gives Michael a magnificent chance."

Schumacher was sidelined by his only mechanical failure of the season in Melbourne last year, while the McLarens of Mika Hakkinen — on his way to the championship — and David Coulthard humiliated the opposition by lapping the entire field.

Perhaps Hill's assessment would have been tempered if he had witnessed the German's lukewarm performance in his first significant press conference of the season. This was Schumacher at his worst: uninterested, terse, even leaving the stage for a toilet break at one point while Ron Dennis, the McLaren team principal, answered questions.

Not that Hakkinen, his chief rival, was in much better form. The world champion said that he is relaxed and determined to retain his title, yet he, too, seemed to be out of sorts, even anxious. In fact, the only world champion who appeared geared up for the challenge was Hill, the oldest man on the grid and the driver most readily tipped for retirement at the end of the season.

Eddie Jordan, the team owner, has already warned that a poor season would see Hill, 37, hanging up his helmet and overalls and walking into the bliss of family life at home in Ireland.

However, Hill spoke enthusiastically yesterday of developing a car that might win races this season and might be ready to challenge for the world championship next season.

This is the first time since he left Williams in his championship-winning year of 1996 that a car has been built for him and Hill has joined in the task with enthusiasm, visiting the Jordan factory on days off and building a relationship with the team.

Earlier this week, he loaded the Jordan mechanics into taxis to take them out for a meal and then to a club to listen to a rhythm and blues band as thanks for their relentless hard work in getting his new Jordan ready for the race on Sunday.

"This is the first time a car has been built around me, with me putting in my ideas and talking closely with the engineers and designers," Hill said. "There is a lot on this car that I like and it is a much, much better car than the one we started last season with."

Having left the excellence of Williams, Hill went to Arrows and a car incapable of even getting to the starting grid in the first race of the 1997 season here. This time last year, having joined Jordan, he laboured to eighth place, which was a warning of times so difficult that he contemplated retirement midway through last year.

All that changed spectacularly when Hill won in Belgium, signalling the rebirth of Jordan as a serious championship contender and Hill as a driver capable of breaking the McLaren-Ferrari monopoly of grands prix victories.

"I am not trying to play things down because we don't know yet where we are against the competition," he said, "but the omens are good. Maybe we are not yet in the position of winning the championship, but we can win races and we have a car that can be developed. Perhaps we will have a realistic chance of a car that can win a championship in the year 2000."



Hill is delighted with Jordan's progress before the opening grand prix of the season this weekend, but believes that Schumacher has a better title chance

Schumacher's performance yesterday left much to be desired

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1657

ACROSS
1 Welsh town: WW2 general (10)
7 Result (7)
8 Skill: guile (5)
10 One from Myanmar: type of cat (7)
11 Item of information (5)
12 Surface glow: glory (in reputation) (6)
15 Waterproof jacket: a nerd (slang) (6)
17 Natural usage (language) (5)
18 Pioneering missionary (7)
21 Mouth of eg Nile, Mississippi (5)
22 Bitter bark extract, for malaria once (7)
23 One-room apartment (6,4)

DOWN
1 Vehicle engine (5)
2 Looped rope-end (5)
3 Hansel's sister (6)
4 Alexander the Great its king (7)
5 Nuclear-energy device (7)
6 Tubby (3-7)
9 One operating stopwatch (4-6)
13 Little pan (7)
14 Arthur —, Fr. poet (7)
16 Macbeth saw his ghost (6)
19 Upstairs bay: its window (5)
20 Coil, distort (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1656
ACROSS: 1 Light 4 Brigade 8 Atrocious 9 Ash 10 Half 11 Sealyham 13 League 14 Onward 17 Croatian 19 Rail 22 Fat 23 Blundered 24 Repress 25 Yemen
DOWN: 1 Leash 2 Gorilla 3 Tack 4 Broken 5 Insolent 6 Awash 7 Exhumed 12 Suitable 13 Lucifer 15 Anagram 16 Jaques 18 On top 20 Laden 21 D-Day

Richmond face cash crisis

BY MARK SOUSTER

A CRISIS meeting at Richmond was continuing late last night to determine whether the financially-troubled Allied Dunbar Premiership rugby union club should, as seems inevitable, apply to go into administration. As the management discussed the implications of Ashley Levett's decision to scale down his investment, which stands at more than £6 million, it transpired that approaches are expected to be made to John Madejski, the multimillionaire owner of Reading Football Club, with a view to a possible takeover.

Madejski, who built the new showpiece stadium where Richmond now play, is in the Far East on business, but it would make obvious sense for the tycoon, who made his fortune from car magazines, to become involved. There are plans to share the rugby and football administrations, but whether Madejski wants to take control, giving the scale of losses in professional rugby, is another matter.

Michelle Lawrence, the Richmond press officer, said: "There is talk of John coming in. It is not difficult to understand why. He took over and saved Reading and has put an enormous amount into the community."

Lawrence indicated that the club would probably go into administration today or on Monday, which would give it a four-month breathing space in which to seek new finance and restructure now that Levett has made his position clear.

Tony Hallett, the former Richmond chief executive and now a non-executive director, said that the administration option would ensure that "creditors do not become predators". Levett is reducing his stake from 80 per cent to 25 per cent in the club, which moved its base from south-west London last season to cut annual losses from £2.8 million to £1.6 million.

The revellation of the club's dire straits could not come at a more inopportune moment. They have just reached the semi-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup and the financial problems will create uncertainty within the playing squad of 32, who have been reassured that there is sufficient money to keep the club going until the end of the season.

Levett, a commodity trader based in Monaco, is the second of the new breed of owner to withdraw from professional rugby. Sir John Hall, who set the benchmark three years ago when he enticed Rob Andrew to Newcastle for £150,000 a year, recently pulled out of the club after writing off an estimated £8 million.

England set the standard, page 49